

King County Elections

From: Egan, Bobbie
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2006 1:13 PM
To: Coppersmith, Megan
Subject: RE: Appointed vs. Elected Auditor position

Agreed!

-----Original Message-----

From: Coppersmith, Megan
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2006 1:01 PM
To: Egan, Bobbie
Subject: RE: Appointed vs. Elected Auditor position

Who knows how old he actually is, anyway!

We're a good team.

-----Original Message-----

From: Egan, Bobbie
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2006 1:01 PM
To: Coppersmith, Megan
Subject: RE: Appointed vs. Elected Auditor position

NO - I'm not! Which is why it's always great to have someone like you checking and rechecking my work and our facts. It's the difference between Charlie Kinder being blind for life and blind since 1953.

-----Original Message-----

From: Coppersmith, Megan
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2006 12:56 PM
To: Egan, Bobbie
Subject: RE: Appointed vs. Elected Auditor position

You're always right, Bobbie...

-----Original Message-----

From: Egan, Bobbie
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2006 12:53 PM
To: Coppersmith, Megan
Subject: FW: Appointed vs. Elected Auditor position

-----Original Message-----

From: Duncan, Carolyn
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2006 12:52 PM
To: Duncan, Carolyn; Whitney, Sheryl; Egan, Bobbie; Coppersmith, Megan; Buck, Jim; Bayne, Ryan
Cc: Quinn, De'Sean; Bascom, Brooke; Triplett, Kurt
Subject: RE: Appointed vs. Elected Auditor position

In fact, I told Kurt to change his notes for his testimony to Dallas County and he did.

Carolyn Duncan
Ofc: 206.296.4063, Pager: 206.663.3981
Communications Director
King County Executive Ron Sims

-----Original Message-----

From: Duncan, Carolyn

Sent: Monday, August 21, 2006 12:49 PM
To: Whitney, Sheryl; Egan, Bobbie; Coppersmith, Megan; Buck, Jim; Bayne, Ryan
Cc: Quinn, De'Sean; Bascom, Brooke; Triplett, Kurt
Subject: RE: Appointed vs. Elected Auditor position

I sent an earlier e-mail on my blackberry that much not have gotten through. I double checked the Maricopa county reference and found it was elected so I changed it to Dallas County. Bobbie checked a list for me and we got it right!!!

Carolyn Duncan
Ofc: 206.296.4063, Pager: 206.663.3981
Communications Director
King County Executive Ron Sims

-----Original Message-----

From: Whitney, Sheryl
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2006 12:38 PM
To: Egan, Bobbie; Coppersmith, Megan; Buck, Jim; Bayne, Ryan
Cc: Quinn, De'Sean; Bascom, Brooke; Duncan, Carolyn; Triplett, Kurt
Subject: Re: Appointed vs. Elected Auditor position

I need to grab the Times' edited version of the letter. Fingers crossed that the Maricopa reference was taken out.

----- Original Message -----

From: Egan, Bobbie
To: Whitney, Sheryl; Coppersmith, Megan; Buck, Jim; Bayne, Ryan
Cc: Quinn, De'Sean; Bascom, Brooke; Duncan, Carolyn; Triplett, Kurt
Sent: Mon Aug 21 12:35:12 2006
Subject: RE: Appointed vs. Elected Auditor position

I sent out a correction to the email at the bottom of this email about two hours after I sent the email to notify everyone that Maricopa County is an elected position. I apologize if it did not get to everyone. This correction explains why the number went from 14 to 13. I didn't see the reference to Maricopa in Ron's letter to the editor which I've copied below, but we have all been working long hours so I may have missed something.

Reliable machinery
No overhaul necessary

Beware of Republican elected officials advocating the Katherine Harris-model for running King County Elections ["Position of trust: In the people's corner," Northwest Voices, Aug. 16]. In reality, a switch from a professional, seasoned manager of King County Elections to an elected auditor now would be a giant step backward. It would guarantee uncertainty in top elections' management positions and needless delay in implementing vote-by-mail.

The National Association of County Recorders, Elections Officials and Clerks just awarded King County Elections the best practices award for its mail-ballot processing. It is a good indicator of the quality of King County elections management by a professional staff.

I'm perplexed by Secretary of State Sam Reed's assertion that I hired my elections director "from [my] political base." My last director of elections was a highly regarded elections professional who was formerly Sam Reed's own director of elections.

An elected auditor is no assurance of quality. Nearly every county in Washington experienced some of the same types of problems as King County in the 2004 general election and every one of those counties had a Republican, Democrat or nonpartisan elected auditor. What matters is how those problems are addressed. No county has invested more or improved

more than King County since 2004.

Nearly a million ballots will be touched by 4,500 workers in King County general election this fall. King County is second only to Los Angeles nationally in the number of mailed ballots processed. Dallas and Los Angeles counties, like most of the nation's 20 largest elections operations, hire seasoned, professional managers rather than electing a politician to run their elections.

Elections are too critical to our democracy to leave management to the candidate with the biggest campaign war chest or best sound bite.

At this point, the county's top priority should be to recruit and hire a top professional elections director and a qualified superintendent of elections. We need to finish the work already started transitioning to a vote-by-mail system.

This is not the time to take our chances on a politician auditor with no elections management experience. Let's continue on the path of excellence that is now under way.

— King County Executive Ron Sims, Seattle

-----Original Message-----

From: Whitney, Sheryl

Sent: Monday, August 21, 2006 12:22 PM

To: Coppersmith, Megan; Egan, Bobbie; Buck, Jim; Bayne, Ryan

Cc: Quinn, De'Sean; Bascom, Brooke; Duncan, Carolyn; Triplett, Kurt

Subject: RE: Appointed vs. Elected Auditor position

I'm a little bit confused then...how did we get Maricopa over in the column on the appointed side? We used that information in Ron's letter to the editor. swv

-----Original Message-----

From: Coppersmith, Megan

Sent: Monday, August 21, 2006 12:02 PM

To: Egan, Bobbie; Buck, Jim; Whitney, Sheryl; Bayne, Ryan

Cc: Quinn, De'Sean; Bascom, Brooke; Duncan, Carolyn; Triplett, Kurt

Subject: RE: Appointed vs. Elected Auditor position

The spreadsheet is correct, 13 of the top 20 are appointed. The spreadsheet is attached to this email.

Elected:

Cook, IL

Harris, TX

Maricopa, AZ

Wayne, MI

San Bernardino, CA

Broward, FL

Philadelphia, PA

----- Original Message -----

From: Bayne, Ryan

To: Egan, Bobbie; Buck, Jim; Whitney, Sheryl

Cc: Quinn, De'Sean; Bascom, Brooke; Duncan, Carolyn; Triplett, Kurt

Sent: Mon Aug 21 11:27:19 2006

Subject: RE: Appointed vs. Elected Auditor position

OK. I don't know where the ball got dropped on Maricopa. It looks like Purcell in her fifth term as Recorder.

-----Original Message-----

From: Egan, Bobbie

Sent: Monday, August 21, 2006 11:26 AM

To: Bayne, Ryan; Buck, Jim; Whitney, Sheryl

Cc: Quinn, De'Sean; Bascom, Brooke; Duncan, Carolyn; Triplett, Kurt

Subject: Re: Appointed vs. Elected Auditor position

I'll have to check our updated spreadsheet and get back to u when The council adjourns. The fellows originally authored the document and we have since corrected one and filled in the blanks and sent that on to Kurt, Carolyn and others. The info is from 2005 and KC has since moved to the 12 largest county by reg. voters based on 2005 data. I do think this information needs to be updated.

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

----- Original Message -----

From: Bayne, Ryan
To: Buck, Jim; Whitney, Sheryl; Egan, Bobbie
Cc: Quinn, De'Sean; Bascom, Brooke; Duncan, Carolyn; Triplett, Kurt
Sent: Mon Aug 21 11:18:34 2006
Subject: FW: Appointed vs. Elected Auditor position

Hey, we have a problem with the data below. At least one of the counties that we have been saying on a regular basis appoints their top elections official, does not. Reagan Dunn just said that Maricopa county elects their elections official. We have been saying they appoint based on this e-mail below. We reference Maricopa in our letter to the Editor printed in today's Times.

I just googled, Helen Purcell is the Maricopa County Recorder and is a partisan elected official in charge of managing elections. Do I need to start googling the rest of these counties?

-----Original Message-----

From: Quinn, De'Sean
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2006 1:55 PM
To: Bayne, Ryan
Subject: Fw: Appointed vs. Elected Auditor position

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

----- Original Message -----

From: Egan Garner, Bobbie
To: Duncan, Carolyn; Sims, Ron; Triplett, Kurt; Jones, Natasha; Kaushik, Sandeep; Huff Menees, Sherril; Buck, Jim; Quinn, De'Sean; Tanaka, Paul
Sent: Tue Jul 25 13:54:59 2006
Subject: Appointed vs. Elected Auditor position

Of the top 20 largest counties in the nation, 14 of 20 counties appoint their top elections official.

Appointed Elections Professional:

Los Angeles County, CA
Maricopa Co. ,AZ
Orange County, CA
San Diego, CA
Miami Dade Co, FL
Dallas County, TX
King County, WA (11th largest county by population as of June 2005) Santa Clara County, CA Riverside County, CA Tarrant County, TX Alameda County, CA Suffolk County, NY Cuyahoga County, OH New York, NY

Elected Elections official:

Cook County, IL
Harris County, TX
Wayne County, MI

San Bernardino County, CA
Broward County, FL
Philadelphia County, PA