



**King County**

August 22, 2005

Dear Executive Sims,

Today, we received an elections briefing in a special meeting of the Committee of the Whole. Dean Logan discussed improvements being made in preparation for upcoming elections. While we are pleased with the attention being given to improving our elections process, we continue to have some concerns that we would like to bring to your attention.

First, we ask that the turn-around team manage our next election. You “enthusiastically received” the Independent Task Force on Elections’ advice. Now we ask that you implement their recommendation by giving the turn-around team full authority over the upcoming general election on November 8, 2005. To be truly effective, the turn-around team must be comprised of election experts who have the qualifications to run our elections processes.

Furthermore, we ask that the turn-around team report jointly to the Council Chair and you as the Executive; copies of all correspondence also should be given to all Councilmembers.

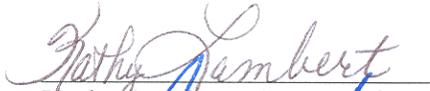
Second, we ask that you reconsider the decision about the four recruiters for the upcoming elections. We believe the recruiters should contain both Republican and Democrat members. As stated today, a change has been implemented where party affiliation is no longer considered. This is one position where party affiliation is important as both sides need their representatives included to give added assurances of open and transparent elections. A bi-partisan group would have more credibility with the electorate.

The Republican Party has provided names of individuals with the background and experience to fill these positions. If those names are not acceptable to you, then please work with Ross Marzolf, Executive Director of the King County Republican Party, at 206-399-1785 to get additional names.

Third, we were surprised that your Chief of Staff, Kurt Triplett, was absent from this briefing. It was our understanding that Mr. Triplett was scheduled to be available at this meeting. His presence this morning would have been informational and helpful.

We are pleased that many of the Election Division problems are being addressed. These positive steps, coupled with our requests and future efforts by all involved parties will ensure our elections are fair, honest, and transparent.

We look forward to working with you on these issues.

  
Kathy Lambert, Caucus Chair

  
Pete von Reichbauer

  
Jane Hague

  
David Irons

  
Steve Hammond

  
Reagan Dunn