

04/04/05

KC Elections Director Dean Logan asked to step down by KC Council Member

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In light of the most recent debacle in King County (another 87 ballots were found last week that were NOT included in the recounts that changed the outcome of the closest election in state history, and gave the democrats the governors office), a King County council member has called on Dean Logan to step down.

FROM THE DESK OF REAGAN DUNN

April 2, 2005

Mr. Dean Logan

Director

King County Records, Elections and Licensing Services Division

King County Administration Building #553

500 Fourth Avenue

Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Director Logan:

The Seattle Times reported on its front page this morning that 87 uncounted absentee ballots from the November 2004 General Election were discovered by your staff during the month of March. The article further stated that you personally were aware of the existence of these uncounted ballots for at least a week before you admitted the ballots had been found. I am deeply troubled by this.

I am asking that you resign your post and give over the operation of your department to someone who will be better able to manage it, who will be more forthright in admitting mistakes, and who will have the trust and confidence of the people.

Under your management and supervision, the King County Elections Department made repeated and inexcusable mistakes during the past several months. Washington State citizens have observed a repeated pattern of mistakes by your department, resulting in a serious erosion of public faith in the system. The failure of your department in administering the most recent election is clear from the many errors in registering voters, inaccuracies in counting and recounting ballots, failure to ensure that only legal ballots were counted and inability to reconcile voters with ballots cast. Every time you report to the Council and the public, the numbers of errors reported have increased.

What the voters need is evidence of meaningful reform. Instead, the voters see additional mistakes and evidence of what appears to be a cover-up. Regarding today's news, I would point out that you admitted the finding of 87 additional ballots only after being specifically asked by a reporter whether the uncounted ballots were in your possession.

The King County Council and the public you serve should not learn about errors in the newspaper. The one week delay is unacceptable. You have stated over and over that your supreme goal is to bring the trust of the electorate to the election process in King

County. You have also stated that your department is not hiding any known errors but is being honest and forthcoming with the people. You have not followed through with this commitment.

You understand that the right to vote is most fundamental to our democratic system. The citizens of Washington State deserve to have confidence in their elections system. As the manager of the largest elections department in the state, the burden falls on you to uphold the integrity of the entire system. Effective management comes from the top. Candidly, my suggestion today is that you do the right thing for King County and for the citizens of Washington State.

Sincerely,
Reagan Dunn
Metropolitan King County Councilmember
District #6