



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 9, 2021

DATE: November 9, 2021
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Jamie Rodriguez, Government Affairs Manager
JARodriguez@washoecounty.gov, 775-328-2010

THROUGH: Eric Brown, County Manager

SUBJECT: Pursuant to Article 4, Section 12 of the Nevada Constitution and NRS chapter 218A, recommendation to nominate a qualified individual to be considered to fill a vacancy in Nevada Senate District 16, comprised of portions of Washoe County and Carson City, recently vacated by Benjamin Kieckhefer, for the remainder of his term to expire upon the swearing in of the successful candidate at the next regular election in 2022. The list of possible nominees is as follows: Melissa T Clement, Jessica Glover, Rew Robert Goodenow, Steven Guerrazzi, Ronald W Haslem, Lisa Krasner, Maxine Nietz, Heidi Palmer, Larry Peyton, Tracy Dawn Smith, Donald Tatro, Jeffrey Thiede and Robert L Weise. (For Possible Action)

SUMMARY

The Board of County Commissioners has been requested by the Governor of the State of Nevada to appoint to a vacant legislative seat for Senate District 16 representing Washoe County and Carson City. Because the senate district covers two counties each will meet separately to make a nomination from the list of qualified applicants. The two counties will then have a joint meeting to appoint the replacement for Senate District 16. The appointee will serve until the swearing in of the successful candidate following the election in November 2022, when voters will select the representative for the seat.

Washoe County Strategic Objective: Regional and Community Leadership

BACKGROUND

Voters typically choose their legislators at elections, so appointing individuals to vacant seats in the Nevada Legislature is a serious responsibility of the Board of County Commissioners. In an atmosphere of quickly evolving information concerning a session of the Nevada Legislature, citizens were offered the opportunity to submit their name to be considered by the County Commissioners for the vacant seat. When a legislative seat represents more than one county then the counties must establish a process for taking applications to fill the vacancy. According to the recently released population data from the 2020 federal decennial census, Senate District 16

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population shows that 62% of the population resides in Washoe County and that 38% resides in Carson City. Washoe County and Carson City agreed to the following process;

1. Applications would be received by Washoe County for the period of Friday October 22, 2021 at 9am to Thursday October 28 at 12pm.
2. The Washoe County Registrar of Voters will verify Washoe County residents and Carson City Clerk will verify Carson City residents.
3. Carson City Board of Supervisors will meet on November 4, 2021 to make a nomination for who should fill the vacancy.
4. Washoe County Board of County Commissioners will meet on November 9, 2021 to make a nomination for who should fill the vacancy.
5. There will be a joint meeting on November 10, 2021 for the 2 counties to meet and make an appointment to Senate District 16 pursuant to NRS 218A.260.

Under state law, the following criteria must be met in order to be qualified for the appointment:

- Reside in the district he or she is seeking to represent.
- Be at least 21 years old and a qualified elector, pursuant to Section 1 of Article 2 of the Constitution of the State of Nevada
- Be of the same political party as the resigning member. Ben Kieckhefer is a Republican.

The list of applicants for the Nevada State Senate District 16 seat includes:

- Melissa T Clement
- Jessica G Glover
- Rew Robert Goodenow
- Steven Guerrazzi
- Ronald W Haslem
- Lisa Krasner
- Maxine Nietz
- Heidi Palmer
- Larry Peyton
- Tracy Dawn Smith
- Donald Tatro
- Jeffrey Thiede
- Robert L Weise

Ms. Glover's address provided in her application shows that she does not reside in Senate District 16.

Ms. Palmer emailed on November 1, 2021 asking to be removed from consideration.

Upon receipt of the application from Mr. Peyton, the Registrar of Voters was not able to verify address for the applicant as we did not have a voter registration that matched the information provided in the application. After notifying the applicant, Mr. Peyton submitted an email stating that he has corrected his voter registration on October 27, 2021. However, staff is not able to confirm the 30 day residency requirement by voter registration records due to the recency of his changed registration.

Mr. Thiede emailed on November 2, 2021 asking to be removed from consideration.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with the Board of Commissioners.

RECOMMENDATION

Nominate a qualified individual to be considered to fill a vacancy in Nevada Senate District 16, vacated by Benjamin Kieckhefer for the remained of his term to expire upon the next regular election from the following list of individuals; Melissa T Clements, Jessica G Glover, Rew Robert Goodenow, Steven Guerrazzi, Ronald W Haslem, Lisa Krasner, Maxine Nietz, Heidi Palmer, Larry Peyton, Tracy Dawn Smith, Donald Tatro, Jeffrey Thiede or Robert L Weise.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board of County Commissioners agree to the recommendation, a possible motion would be:

"Move to nominate a qualified individual to be considered to fill a vacancy in Nevada Senate District 16, vacated by Benjamin Kieckhefer for the remained of his term to expire upon the next regular election from the following list of individuals; Melissa T Clement, Jessica G Glover, Rew Robert Goodenow, Steven Guerrazzi, Ronald W Haslem, Lisa Krasner, Maxine Nietz, Heidi Palmer, Larry Peyton, Tracy Dawn Smith, Donald Tatro, Jeffrey Thiede or Robert L Weise."