



STATE OF WASHINGTON
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

MICHAEL P. SELLARS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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MINUTES

February 10, 2025

The regular meeting of the Public Employment Relations Commission
was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Via Zoom &
PERC Conference Room
112 Henry Street NE, Suite 300
Olympia, Washington 98506

Those present and participating:
Mark S. Lyon, Chairperson
Henry E. Farber, Commissioner
Mike Sellars, Executive Director
Charity Atchison, Appeals Administrator
Vanessa Smith, Confidential Secretary

Also present:

Jessica Bradley, PERC, Labor Relations Adjudicator/Mediator
Lynn Eccles, PERC, Administrative Services Manager
Alyssa Gerchak, PERC, Legal Assistant
Dianne Ramerman, PERC, Field Services Manager
Joye Rolfer, PERC, Communications Consultant
Katie Sypher, PERC, Labor Relations Adjudicator/Mediator
Page Todd, PERC, Labor Relations Adjudicator/Mediator
Emily Whitney, PERC, Unfair Labor Practice/Representation Administrator

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on January 13, 2025, were adopted as presented.

Report of the Executive Director

1. Mike reviewed the case and decision report for January, which had 77 cases filed. Of the 15 unfair labor practice complaints, over half were filed by self-represented individuals.

This report also included a chart showing the number of election cases by type and bargaining units created since 2012. In the years following the 2018 *Janus* decision, new organizing activity has generally been high, and we have seen a significant jump in the number of election cases. Despite that, we have continued to meet our targets to process petitions within 45 days for cases without contested issues and within 180 days for cases with contested issues, respectively averaging 43 and 122 days last year. Mike expressed kudos to Emily Whitney, Dario de la Rosa, and all staff who conducted election hearings.

2. All state agencies have been asked to identify how they would cut 6% from their budgets for the next two biennia. Fortunately, we have been holding vacancies and would be able to implement cuts without losing staff. However, Mike will also have to look at other funding to meet the need, and offering or not filling those positions will eventually impact our ability to provide timely services.
3. We are also starting to assess the impact of the new federal administration. One thing that has already been impacted is the LERA conference, which PERC has historically cohosted with FMCS. That agency is now attempting to comply with the president's executive orders regarding DEI, so it can no longer cosponsor the conference in April. However, this won't impact our ability to put on the conference, its quality, or its attendance. Mike has all the confidence in the world in our staff to put on a great conference, and we won't back down or change anything we are doing.
4. We are developing an AI chat support bot that will help clientele find answers to their questions on our website. In conjunction with that, Katie Sypher, Jamie Siegel, and Emily Whitney have been working with Joye Rolfer on a litigant guide. We hope to launch both the bot and the guide by the end of March.

Legislative Update

Charity gave an overview of the legislation that PERC has been monitoring. Confirmation hearings for Mark Lyon and Henry E. Farber are potentially coming. Mike will be testifying at a hearing regarding SB 5503 on February 11. We don't generally take positions on bills but have many concerns about this bill.

Commission & Court Docket

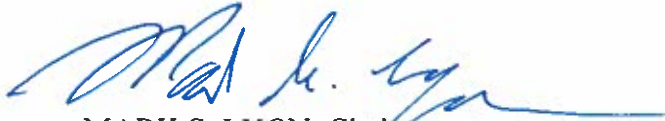
Our assistant attorney general, Chad Standifer, was invited to this meeting to discuss pending court appeals. However, due to Commissioner Ford's unavailability, that discussion has been rescheduled for next month. The Commission currently has 11 cases on its docket. Lists of pending cases that have been appealed to court or the Commission are available on the agency website at <https://perc.wa.gov/commission/>.

Adjournment

There being nothing further to come before the Commission, the public meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

APPROVED at Olympia, Washington, this 10th day of March, 2025.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION



MARK S. LYON, Chairperson



ELIZABETH FORD, Commissioner



HENRY E. FARBER, Commissioner