MANAGEMENT BRIEF

City of Bellevue

DATE: December 9, 2025

TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

FROM: Charmaine Arredondo, City Clerk, 452-6466
            City Clerk's Office

SUBJECT: Determining Procedure for Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor at
            Council's January 6, 2026 Meeting

RCW 35A.13.030 and Resolution No. 10544 provide that Council shall elect a Mayor and Deputy Mayor to serve terms of two years at the first official meeting of the City Council during even-numbered years. The elections of these officials will be the first order of business at the January 6, 2026, Council meeting.

For the past six elections, the City Council selected a balloted voting method allowing for voting of all nominated candidates simultaneously (Option 1). In prior years, the Council used the nomination process outlined in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (Option 2) where nominees are voted individually and in order of nomination. Each option is outlined below in more detail.

The selected process will be used for the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Upon election of the Mayor, he or she will assume the gavel from the temporary chair and repeat the process to elect the Deputy Mayor.

Option 1: Simultaneous Voting Method

- The temporary chair opens the meeting and calls for nominations.
- Nominations do not require a second.
- The temporary chair closes the floor to nominations when no further nominations are forthcoming.
- The list of nominees is voted by roll call vote or by ballot.
- If one of the nominees receives a majority vote, the temporary chair declares that person elected.

If the Council fails to select a Mayor from the nominees presented, or if there is a tie vote, the temporary chair will reopen nominations. Once nominated, no candidate is

removed from consideration unless they withdraw. This process continues until a nominee receives a majority vote.

Using this method, Councilmembers vote on all nominees simultaneously, making the order in which nominations are taken less significant and could result in fewer rounds of voting.

This method requires establishing a temporary rule to allow a process other than Robert's Rules to govern the election, which requires a vote of two-thirds of the members present (five).

Option 2: Individual Voting Method

- The temporary chair opens the meeting and calls for nominations.
- Nominations do not require a second.
- The temporary chair closes the floor to nominations when no further nominations are forthcoming.
- Nominees are voted one at a time in the order in which the nominations were presented. Alternatives for how that vote is taken include:
  - by voice vote and raising of right hand;
  - by roll call vote (each member votes verbally in sequential order);
  - by ballot.
- As soon as one of the nominees receives a majority vote, the temporary chair declares that person elected and no votes are taken on the remaining nominees.

This method requires a Councilmember wishing to vote affirmatively for a candidate appearing later in the list of nominees to vote "no" on earlier nominees to assure that the individual's favored nominee comes to a vote.

If Council fails to select a Mayor from the nominees presented, or if there is a tie vote, the temporary chair reopens nominations and adds to the initial slate. Once nominated, no candidate is removed from consideration unless they withdraw. The process continues until a nominee receives a majority vote.

This method requires a majority vote of the Council (four) to be selected.

COUNCIL DIRECTION:

Council direction is requested at tonight's meeting on which election method to use for the January 6, 2026, election. Suggested motion language is provided below for both options.

Option 1: Simultaneous Voting Method

Move to adopt a temporary Council Rule authorizing conducting the January 6, 2026 elections for Mayor and Deputy Mayor by voting all nominees simultaneously using the _____ method of voting.

(Fill in blank with one of the following: roll call or ballot.)

Option 2: Individual Voting Method

Move to use the Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, process for the January 6, 2026 election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and use the _____ method of voting.

(Fill in blank with one of the following: voice, roll call or ballot method.)