

# Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission

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## Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission

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The SEEC is made up of seven citizen volunteers who are responsible for interpreting and applying the ethics, elections, lobbying, and whistleblower codes for the City of Seattle.

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The Commission is non-partisan and independent from the City's elected offices.

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The Commission and its staff administer the Democracy Voucher Program.

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## Democracy Voucher Program

*Began with:*

*Citizen-led initiative passed by voters in 2015.*

*Aims to:*

*Increase the number of candidates who run for office.*

*Increase the number of Seattle residents who can donate to and support local campaigns.*

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## Who can use vouchers?

### Residents:

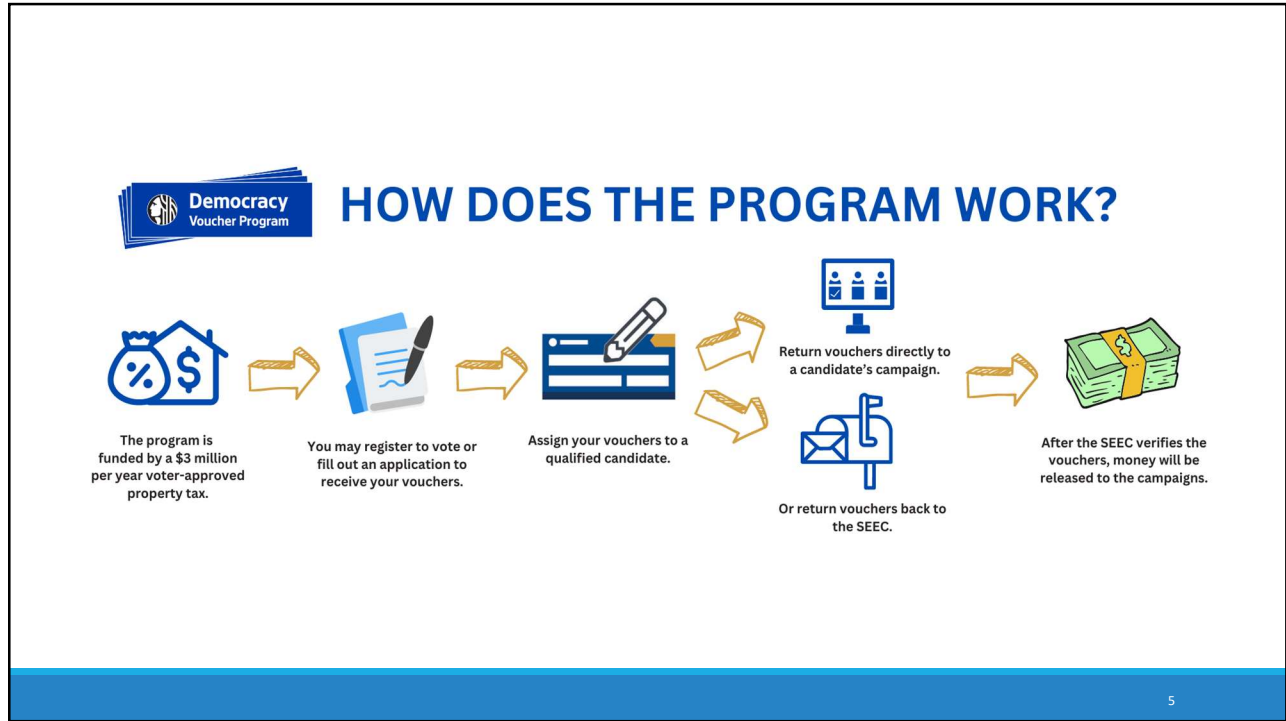
- Seattle residents receive four \$25 vouchers they can use to donate to candidates running for City of Seattle offices. Residents must be:
  - Over 18
  - Seattle Resident
  - Citizen, Legal Permanent Resident, or U.S. National

### Candidates:

- Candidates may use voucher proceeds to help fund their campaigns.

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**City of Seattle**  
Seattle Ethics & Elections Commission  
Democracy Voucher Program  
PO Box 35156  
Seattle, WA 98124-5156

YOUR DEMOCRACY VOUCHERS AND INSTRUCTIONS ARE INSIDE

**Questions about the Democracy Voucher Program?**

Democracy vouchers are used to support participating candidates running for Seattle City Council in 2024.

**Why is there a Seattle City Council election in 2024?**  
A recall has occurred in City Council District 8. There will be an election in 2024 to fill that role until the regular election occurs in 2025. This position is elected by and represents the entire city.

**Which candidates can give my Democracy Vouchers to?**  
Check to make sure the candidate you are giving Democracy Vouchers. Find the list of participating candidates at [seattle.gov/democravoucher](http://seattle.gov/democravoucher) or call (206) 321-9852.

**How do I use my Democracy Vouchers?**  
Write the candidate name at the top of each voucher and then sign your name and date. You can assign vouchers to one or more participating candidates.

**When should I use my Democracy Vouchers?**  
You cannot use your Democracy Vouchers from the time you receive them through November 29, 2024. However, candidates can only receive a limited number of vouchers. The longer you wait to use your vouchers, the more likely your candidates will have reached their voucher limit.

**What happens if I do not use my Democracy Vouchers?**  
If you do not use your vouchers, the funds will carry over to the next election cycle. Please recycle unused vouchers.

**Is using my Democracy Vouchers the same as voting?**  
No, giving your vouchers to a candidate is not the same as voting. If you are a voter, you will still need to vote during the Primary and General Elections.

**If I use my Democracy Vouchers, is that information public?**  
Yes, contributions to campaigns, including Democracy Vouchers, are public information. This means your name (and possibly your address when you contributed to) and the amount will be posted online.

**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**  
NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES

CITY OF SEATTLE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMISSION  
PO BOX 35156  
SEATTLE WA 98124-0877

## Voucher Mailer

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**There are two ways to use your Democracy Vouchers!**

Democracy Vouchers can be used to support participating candidates for Seattle City Council in 2023. When you assign a Democracy Voucher, your name and your candidate selection is reported on our website. Additionally, your address may be reported on the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission website.

**Use your vouchers online** [www.seattle.gov/democracyvoucher](http://www.seattle.gov/democracyvoucher)

OR

**Use your paper vouchers**

**Learn about the candidates.**  
Learn about the candidates by visiting [www.seattle.gov/democracyvoucher](http://www.seattle.gov/democracyvoucher) or call 206-727-8855 to request information. The list of candidates is updated frequently as candidates enroll in the program.

**Complete your vouchers.**  
Write in the candidate's name, your signature, and the date on each voucher. You can assign one or more vouchers to participating candidates.

**Return your vouchers.**  
There are many ways to return your Democracy Vouchers.

- Give your vouchers directly to a candidate's campaign.
- Use the enclosed pre-paid envelope.
- Find the list of additional drop-off locations on the website.

**Questions?** See the enclosed information sheet for frequently asked questions.

# Voucher Mailer

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**Return your voucher:**

Directly to a participating candidate's campaign. | By mail using the pre-paid envelope or send to: Democracy Voucher Program, PO Box 9176, Seattle, WA 98124-0176. | Find drop-off and electronic return methods: [www.seattle.gov/democracyvoucher](http://www.seattle.gov/democracyvoucher)

**First Name Last Name**    **Invitation Code**    **Voucher ID Barcode**

**City of Seattle**

Hello **FirstName**,

Your four \$25 Democracy Vouchers have arrived.

You can give your vouchers to any participating candidate.

**OPEN FOR YOUR VOUCHERS**

John Appleseed  
1234 Main St.  
Seattle, WA 98123

**Questions?**  
Visit [www.seattle.gov/democracyvoucher](http://www.seattle.gov/democracyvoucher) or call (206) 727-8855.

**Lost or damaged Democracy Vouchers?**  
Please email [democracyvoucher@seattle.gov](mailto:democracyvoucher@seattle.gov) or call (206) 727-8855 to request replacement vouchers.

**Accommodations**  
Reasonable accommodations are provided upon request.

# Voucher Mailer

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# Candidate Commitments

- Spending Limits
- Lower Individual Contribution Limits
- Participate in three public debates each ahead of the Primary and the General Elections.
- Qualify to receive funding by collecting signatures and donations of \$10+ from Seattle residents.

# Outreach

### Contracts:

\$300,000 dedicated to community-based organizations to conduct outreach to communities.

### Language Access:

- 20 languages are supported across all key program materials, the program website, and the online voucher portal.

### Candidate Introductions:

- Translated bios of all candidates are available on the program website.

- Amharic / አማርኛ
- Arabic / عربي
- Cambodian / Khmer / ខ្មែរ
- Chinese (Traditional)/ 繁體中文
- Chinese (Simplified)/ 简体中文
- English
- Filipino / Tagalog
- French
- Hindi
- Japanese / 日本人
- Korean / 한국어
- Lao / ພາສາລາວ
- Oromo / Oromiffa
- Russian / русский язык
- Somali / af Soomaali
- Spanish / Español
- Thai / ภาษาไทย
- Tigrigna / ትግርኛ
- Ukrainian / Українська
- Vietnamese / Tiếng Việt

## Outcomes

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- 10 of 11 currently elected officials participated in the program.
- Seattle donors now more closely resemble Seattle voters and come from all over the city.
- Steady decline in out-of-city donations.
  - Example: 2017 Mayoral (No DVP) = 23% from outside the city. 2021 Mayoral (with DVP) = 7% from outside the city.
- Increased number of contributors.
  - Example: 2017 Mayoral (No DVP) = 10k contributors. 2021 Mayoral (with DVP) = 38k contributors.