

Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission: Democracy Voucher Program Update

Commission Meeting: January 10, 2024

2023 – Summary

Vouchers

- 118,264 vouchers, representing 30,617 residents.
- 80% of vouchers received were redeemed.

Campaign Funding

- 290 unique invoices were processed across 30 campaigns.
- \$2,402,900 was distributed, representing 96,116 vouchers.

December 2, 2019

- Campaigns received \$2,454,475, representing 98,179 redeemed vouchers.

Pending 2023

- Summarize candidate feedback.
- Finalize Biennial Report.
- Document and data records storage.

Utilization of Available Program Funds			
Year	Available Funds	Distributed Funds	Utilization Rate
2017	\$3,000,000	\$1,140,525	38%
2019	\$4,200,000	\$2,454,475	58%
2021	\$6,800,000	\$3,397,050	50%
2023	\$5,250,000	\$2,402,900	46%

2024 – Summary

- Democracy Voucher Outreach Fund – Contracts are being finalized and training has begun.
- The program website is being updated and the first Campaign Update has been distributed. [Campaign and Candidate Resources - DemocracyVoucher | seattle.gov](#)
- Voucher packet and marketing materials finalized.
 - o Candidate Flyer
 - o Resident Brochure
 - o Voucher Mailer

Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission: Democracy Voucher Program Update



INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR CITY COUNCIL IN 2024?

Use Democracy Vouchers to fund your Campaign!

How the Program Works

In 2024, the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (SEEC) will distribute two Democracy Vouchers valued at \$25 each to eligible Seattle residents.

Residents assign vouchers to participating candidates they support.

The SEEC verifies the vouchers and issues funds to the campaign.

Become a Candidate

- Schedule a one-on-one training.
- Pledge to be a Democracy Voucher candidate.
- Collect Democracy Vouchers from Seattle residents.
- Qualify for the program to receive funds.
- Fund your campaign!

Frequently Asked Questions

How much funding is available for campaigns?

For 2024, \$1.8 million is available for candidates to fund their campaigns.

Which positions are eligible for funding?

The Seattle City Council Position 8 will be eligible for Democracy Voucher funding.

How much funding can each candidate get?

Candidates who qualify for the program may receive up to \$225,000 in funding for the Primary and up to \$450,000 for the entire election year.



2024 AT A GLANCE

- **January 3, 2024** - Vacancy occurs in Seattle City Council Position 8. The election cycle begins, and candidates may start campaigning and qualifying.
- **March 12, 2024** - First day vouchers are available to Seattle residents.
- **May 6-10** - Filing week at King County Elections.
- **May 24, 2024** - Last chance for candidates to enter the Democracy Voucher Program by signing the Pledge.
- **August 6, 2024** - Primary Election Day.
- **November 5, 2024** - General Election Day.

How Do I Get Started?

Contact us to schedule a one-on-one training:

 democracyvoucher@seattle.gov

 (206) 727 - 8855



Review materials on our Candidate and Campaign Resources webpage

Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission: Democracy Voucher Program Update



The Democracy Voucher Program is administered by the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission.

Learn more about the program and find participating candidates at:

www.seattle.gov/democracyvoucher



አማርኛ • العربية • ខ្មែរ • 中文 (繁體) • 中文 (简体)
 Filipino/Tagalog • 日本語 • 한국어 • ལོ་གྲོལ་གྱི་སྐད་
 Oromoo • Русский • Soomaali • Español • ភាសាខ្មែរ
 ትግርኛ • Українська • Tiếng Việt

You may request to have your Democracy Vouchers in your preferred language by contacting us at (206) 727-8855 or democracyvoucher@seattle.gov.

Accommodations

Upon request, the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission will provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities to help ensure access to programs.

Follow us on social media



@democracyvoucher



@democracyvoucherprogram



City of Seattle

YOUR VOICE MATTERS.

Use your Democracy Vouchers in the 2024 Seattle election.



WHAT ARE DEMOCRACY VOUCHERS?

In 2024, Seattle residents will receive two \$25 vouchers used to support candidates who are running for Seattle City Council Position 8.

How do I get Democracy Vouchers?

If you are a registered voter in Seattle, you will automatically receive Democracy Vouchers by mail. You **do not** have to be a registered voter to use Democracy Vouchers.

Seattle residents who are at least 18 years of age and are either a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or lawful permanent resident ("green card holder") may apply to receive vouchers by contacting our office.

Who can I give my Democracy Vouchers to?

You can give one or more Democracy Vouchers to candidates who are participating in the program.

Find the updated list of candidates on our website.

Participating Candidates



YOUR PARTICIPATION MAKES AN IMPACT.

The Democracy Voucher Program empowers Seattle residents to participate in local elections and reduces barriers to running for office by providing a public funding source.

2023 Democracy Voucher Program Snapshot:



Seattle residents returned over 100,000 Democracy Vouchers.



All 14 of the General Election candidates used Democracy Vouchers to fund their campaigns.



88% of Seattle campaign funding comes from local dollars.

LEARN MORE. GET INVOLVED.

www.seattle.gov/democracyvoucher

IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH 12, 2024

Democracy Vouchers are first made available.

AUGUST 6, 2024

Primary Election

NOVEMBER 5, 2024

General Election



Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission: Democracy Voucher Program Update

These Democracy Vouchers are for the 2024 Seattle City Council special election.

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

seattle.gov/democracyvoucher



OR

Use your paper vouchers



1. Learn about the candidates.

Call (206) 727-8855 or visit seattle.gov/democracyvoucher.



2. Complete your vouchers.

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



3. Return your vouchers.

There are several ways to return your Democracy Vouchers.

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

Questions?

See the enclosed information sheet for frequently asked questions.

30s



Democracy Voucher
2024 Seattle City Council

NO CASH VALUE - NON-TRANSFERABLE
VALID MARCH 12, 2024-NOVEMBER 29, 2024

\$25
VOUCHER 1 OF 2

I am assigning this voucher to the participating City of Seattle candidate whose name is printed here:

Candidate Name:
Participating
candidate's name

I attest that I received this Democracy Voucher properly and make this assignment freely and not in exchange for payment of any kind. I am aware the assignment may not be changed and there is no guarantee of availability of funds. Assignment is complete upon delivery to the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission, the candidate, or the campaign's representative. Vouchers may only be assigned to program candidates.

Signature:

Date:

Find a participating candidate at www.seattle.gov/democracyvoucher



Democracy Voucher
2024 Seattle City Council

NO CASH VALUE - NON-TRANSFERABLE
VALID MARCH 12, 2024-NOVEMBER 29, 2024

\$25
VOUCHER 2 OF 2

I am assigning this voucher to the participating City of Seattle candidate whose name is printed here:

Candidate Name:
Participating
candidate's name

I attest that I received this Democracy Voucher properly and make this assignment freely and not in exchange for payment of any kind. I am aware the assignment may not be changed and there is no guarantee of availability of funds. Assignment is complete upon delivery to the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission, the candidate, or the campaign's representative. Vouchers may only be assigned to program candidates.

Signature:

Date:

Find a participating candidate at www.seattle.gov/democracyvoucher

Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission: Democracy Voucher Program Update

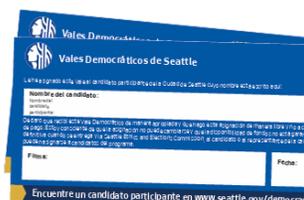


City of Seattle

Seattle Ethics & Elections Commission
Democracy Voucher Program
PO Box 35196
Seattle, WA 98124-5196

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE WA
PERMIT 2052

SUS VALES DEMOCRÁTICOS Y LAS
INSTRUCCIONES ESTÁN EN EL INTERIOR



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 vacancy has occurred in City Council Position 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.

Because there is only one City of Seattle race this year, the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission is only issuing two, \$25 Democracy Vouchers to residents.

What is the purpose of Democracy Vouchers?

Democracy Vouchers are a way for Seattle residents to donate to local candidates using public dollars that have already been collected.

The program is funded by a small property tax costing the average property owner \$8 per year.

Which candidates can I give my Democracy Vouchers to?

Check to make sure the candidate you like is using Democracy Vouchers. Find the list of participating candidates at seattle.gov/democracvoucher or call (206) 727-8855.



Participating
Candidate List

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 can 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 limits.

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), who you contributed to, and the amount will be posted online.