

**From:** Ray Rogers <wevoterogers@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 1:12 PM

**Subject:** Re: Candidate Introduction

Dear Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission,

My name is Ray A. Rogers and I am a first time candidate for public office. It is my hope and belief that the democracy voucher program was created so that people like me might have a chance to compete with established candidates and incumbents. I do want to say that Polly and her team have been very accommodating, following up regularly and being a great resource for me. Unfortunately, navigating the program can be a bit overwhelming for someone in my shoes. As I mentioned, I am a first time candidate, trying to meet all expectations of an established campaign, with only myself and a long time friend acting as my campaign manager.

When we first heard of the democracy voucher program, we were very excited. We completed the training and put all things in place to begin the process. However, after a couple weeks of standing outside of various grocery stores, and only gaining a handful of qualifying forms, it seemed that collecting the 400 required for approval was out of reach. As such, although we had completed all trainings and provided all necessary documents other than the pledge form, we did not see a realistic possibility of meeting the goal. Then, on Thursday of last week, we met with a group of volunteers who promised to help, and we began to believe that maybe we could find 400 supporters after all. So we found the pledge form and sent it in on Sunday, May 25th.

On May 27th, we received notification that we missed the 5/23/25 deadline, along with a link to the 84 page municipal code document that stated we must register within 14 days of filing for candidacy (May 23rd deadline). As mentioned, our campaign staff consists of myself and my volunteer campaign manager. It is very possible that during training that we were presented with this deadline, to be honest, I do not remember. However, if the expectation was that we should find and remember the deadline statement within the 84 page municipal code document, I apologize that the information was missed. Between filing, learning the ropes, making sure we're compliant with PDC and Ethics regarding donations, writing press announcements, completing endorsement applications, getting a website set up, taking care of my wife and children, dealing with health issues and unexpected loss, I just did not see nor remember that there was a 2 week window to turn in my pledge form.

If possible, please consider showing me grace. Can we agree that had I turned in the pledge form on Friday at 4:59pm, it would not have been received until Tuesday, May 27th, which is also the day you did receive the form I provided on 5/25/25. I'm not sure if that is a great point or not, but I thought it might be worth thinking about. Ultimately, I am simply asking that we honor the spirit of the democracy voucher program, which is to give all candidates a chance to fund their campaign. I believe that our participation in the trainings, and doing all necessary items with the exception of the pledge form, show that there was no malice intended on our part.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ray A. Rogers