

Interested in running as a candidate in Seattle?

Now, there's a new way to fund your campaign!

In 2017, the City of Seattle launched the Democracy Voucher Program, which created a funding source for Seattle residents to run for office or support candidates of their choice.

When is the next City of Seattle election?

The next City of Seattle election is in 2019 and the seven city council district races are eligible for campaign funding through the Democracy Voucher Program.

When may candidates begin qualifying for the Democracy Voucher Program?

Candidates may begin collecting qualifying contributions for the Democracy Voucher Program beginning January 1, 2018.

How many qualifying contributions are required to qualify for the program?

Candidates running for a city council district position must collect at least 150 qualifying contributions from Seattle residents. Seventy-five contributions must come from within the candidate's district.

What is the residency requirement for candidates?

Candidates must reside in the district they wish to represent for at least 120 days prior to filing for office. The deadline for residency is January 17, 2019.

How do I get started?

Before beginning or announcing a campaign, please contact the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission for more information or to schedule a campaign training.

Contact us for more information or to schedule a training:



(206) 727-8855
democracyvoucher@seattle.gov
seattle.gov/democracyvoucher

Seattle's Democracy Voucher Program makes it easier to support local candidate campaigns

What is a Democracy Voucher?

Democracy Vouchers are certificates valued at \$25 each that Seattle residents can contribute to the campaigns of participating candidates running for Seattle City Council, City Attorney, or Mayor.

Who can use Democracy Vouchers?

You must live in Seattle to be eligible to use Democracy Vouchers. You must also be:

- At least 18 years of age, and
- A U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or lawful permanent resident.

How do I get my Democracy Vouchers?

Four \$25 Democracy Vouchers are mailed to Seattle registered voters, newly registered Seattle voters, and those who apply to the program.

If you are not a registered voter, contact Seattle Ethics and Elections to apply to receive Democracy Vouchers.

How is the program funded, and who runs it?

In November 2015, Seattle voters approved a property tax to fund the Democracy Voucher Program for 10 years. The Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission, an independent agency of the City of Seattle, administers the program.

Can I find out who is giving and receiving vouchers?

Yes. Contributions to campaigns, including Democracy Vouchers, are public information. The Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission is required to post names of contributors, the candidates they contributed to, and the amount, on its website.

How do I run for office using Democracy Vouchers?

Contact the Democracy Voucher Program to learn how to fund your own campaign using Democracy Vouchers.

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Upon request, Seattle Ethics and Elections will provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities to help ensure access to programs. If you would like to request an accommodation, or for materials in other languages, please call (206) 727-8855.

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Democracy Voucher Replacement Form for Campaigns

The Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (SEEC) authorizes the use of this form to serve as replacement Democracy Vouchers. Only a registered campaign representative may use this form to issue replacement vouchers to Seattle residents who have previously received Democracy Vouchers.


This form should only be used for Democracy Vouchers you have not used yet. If you are a Seattle resident who has already submitted your Democracy Vouchers, you may not assign additional vouchers to campaigns in 2017.

Democracy Vouchers may be given only to participating candidates in the program. Contributions - including Democracy Vouchers - to political campaigns are public information.

If you have questions, or for the list of participating candidates, visit seattle.gov/democracyvoucher, or call (206) 727-8855.

Instructions for Seattle residents:

- 1) Write in the participating candidate's name.
- 2) Sign the signature line for each \$25 Democracy Voucher you wish to assign to the candidate. You can give candidates one (\$25), two (\$50), three (\$75), or all four (\$100) of your Democracy Vouchers.
- 3) Complete the contact information at the bottom of this form. Incomplete forms will not be processed. This information will help the SEEC verify the correct vouchers are assigned.



Seattle Democracy Voucher
2017 Primary & General Election

NO CASH VALUE • NON-TRANSFERABLE
VALID JANUARY 3, 2017-NOVEMBER 30, 2017

I am assigning this voucher to the qualified candidate for the office of Seattle City Attorney or Seattle City Council whose name is printed here:

Candidate Name:
Print qualified City Council or
City Attorney candidate's name

I attest that I obtained this Democracy Voucher properly and make this assignment freely and not in exchange for payment of any kind. I am aware that 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 her or his registered representative. Vouchers may only be assigned to qualified candidates.

<div>\$25</div>	Signature:	Date:
<div>\$25</div>	Signature:	Date:
<div>\$25</div>	Signature:	Date:
<div>\$25</div>	Signature:	Date:

Seattle Resident Contact Information

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Phone/E-mail: _____

The information below is for the campaign to complete

Campaign Representative Signature: _____ Voter ID of Voucherholder: _____