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SEATTLE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMISSION

# What we've done


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- Set up program infrastructure
- Launched program

Your Democracy Vouchers are here!



# Democracy Voucher - Design



**Seattle Democracy Voucher**  
**2017 Primary & General Election**

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

**\$25**

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.

**Signature:**  
SAMPLE VOUCHER

**Date:**

**Find a participating candidate at [www.seattle.gov/democracvoucher](http://www.seattle.gov/democracvoucher)**

### Return your voucher:



Directly to a qualified candidate's campaign.



By mail using the pre-paid envelope.  
Or send directly to:  
Democracy Voucher Program  
PO Box 35196, Seattle, WA 98124-5196



See the complete list of drop-off and electronic return methods:  
[www.seattle.gov/democracvoucher](http://www.seattle.gov/democracvoucher)

FIRST NAME  
LAST NAME



# Democracy Voucher - FAQ

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## City of Seattle

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Why am I receiving Democracy Vouchers?**

You are receiving four \$25 Democracy Vouchers because you are a registered voter or you completed an application to request Democracy Vouchers for the 2017 City of Seattle elections.

#### **How did the Democracy Voucher Program begin?**

In November 2015, Seattle voters passed a citizen-led initiative known as "Honest Elections Seattle" (I-122). I-122 enacted several campaign finance reforms that changed the way campaigns are typically financed for Seattle candidates. One major reform requires the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission to distribute \$100 in Democracy Vouchers to eligible Seattle residents.

#### **What are Democracy Vouchers?**

Democracy Vouchers are four \$25 certificates you can use to support a participating candidate's campaign for Seattle City Council or City Attorney. The program will expand to include the Mayor's race in 2021.

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#### **What is the purpose of the Democracy Voucher Program?**

Democracy Vouchers are a new way for Seattle residents to become more active in their government by donating to campaigns and/or running for elected positions themselves.

#### **How is the Democracy Voucher Program funded?**

I-122 authorized a maximum property tax increase of \$3 million per year to fund the program for the next 10 years. The Democracy Voucher Program costs the average homeowner about \$11.50 a year.



# Democracy Voucher - FAQ

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## **Is using my Democracy Voucher the same as voting?**

No. Democracy Vouchers are used to help candidates raise money for their campaigns. If you are a registered voter, you will still need to vote in the 2017 Primary and General Elections.

## **Who can use my Democracy Vouchers?**

Only participating candidates enrolled in the Democracy Voucher Program may receive Democracy Vouchers to fund their campaigns. Participating candidates must follow strict reporting guidelines to qualify for the program.

You can give participating candidates one (\$25), two (\$50), three (\$75), or all four (\$100) of your Democracy Vouchers.

Check the website frequently for the updated list of candidates you may give your vouchers to.

## **Are Democracy Vouchers public information?**

Yes. As with all donations to candidate campaigns, voucher assignments are public information. Your name and the candidate you give your vouchers to are public information and will be published on the program website.

## **I do not want my vouchers. Can I give my Democracy Vouchers to another person?**

Democracy Vouchers are assigned to you and only you. Vouchers may not be sold, gifted, or bought. Democracy Vouchers have no cash value and are not assets.

## **How long do I have to use my Democracy Vouchers?**

You may give your Democracy Vouchers to participating candidates as soon as January 3, 2017. Democracy Vouchers are valid until November 30, 2017.

# By the numbers

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- **Pledged candidates: 7**
- **Qualified candidates: 1**
- **Vouchers returned: 2,500**
- **Webpage views: nearly 700,000**

# By the numbers

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- Hotline calls in December: 130
- Hotline calls from Jan 3 - 18: 391
- Callers assisted using Language Translation Services: 38
- Key documents translated in 14 languages: 7
- Events and presentations

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Filipino/Tagalog • 한국어 • ພາສາລາວ • Oromiffa  
русский язык • af Soomaali • Español • ภาษาไทย  
ភាសាខ្មែរ • Tiếng Việt

# What's next

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- **Voucher processing**
- **Coordinated outreach**
- **Online system development – 2019**





# Democracy Voucher Program