



Seattle's new **Democracy Voucher Program** makes it easier to participate in local elections.

What is a Democracy Voucher?

Democracy Vouchers make it easier for Seattle residents to have a voice in their government. Democracy Vouchers are certificates valued at \$25 each that Seattle residents can contribute to the campaigns of candidates running for City Council or City Attorney positions (the program will expand to include the Mayor's race in 2021). Beginning in January 2017, eligible Seattle residents will have the opportunity to use four \$25 vouchers, for a total of \$100, in the 2017 city elections.

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?

If you are a registered voter, you will automatically receive your Democracy Vouchers in the mail in early January 2017.

If you are **not** a registered voter, you can get your Democracy Vouchers in one of two ways. You can **register to vote**, if eligible, and your vouchers will come in the mail. Or you may **sign up** after January 3, 2017 by contacting Seattle Ethics and Elections: email democracyvoucher@seattle.gov, or call (206) 727-8855.

How do I spend my Democracy Vouchers?

You can give candidates one (\$25), two (\$50), three (\$75), or all four (\$100) of your Democracy Vouchers. Vouchers may be given only to qualified candidates who are participating in the program: you can see a list of those candidates at seattle.gov/democracyvoucher.

To use your vouchers, write the name of the candidate you choose on each voucher, sign your name, and write the date. You can give or mail vouchers directly to a candidate's campaign or mail your assigned vouchers to the Seattle Ethics and Elections office (Seattle Ethics & Elections Commission, PO Box 94729, Seattle, WA 98124-4729).

Can I find out who is giving and receiving vouchers?

Yes. Contributions to campaigns are public information. To ensure that vouchers are assigned to the correct candidates, Seattle Ethics and Elections will publish a list of candidates who received vouchers and the names of people who gave vouchers at seattle.gov/democracyvoucher.

How do I run for office using Democracy Vouchers?

Democracy Vouchers make it easier for people to fund their own campaigns. There are several steps to running for office, and candidates must agree to follow program rules to receive Democracy Vouchers. You can learn more at seattle.gov/democracyvoucher/candidate-information.

How is the program funded, and who is running 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, a nonpartisan, independent agency of the City of Seattle, administers the Democracy Voucher Program.

How can I learn more about the Democracy Voucher Program?

You will receive a flyer in the mail this December with more information about Seattle's Democracy Voucher Program. You may also visit seattle.gov/democracyvoucher, or call (206) 727-8855.

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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.