



To Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission:

The campaign for Jon Grant for Seattle City Council, position 8, is formally petitioning you to request that our spending cap of \$150,000, imposed by our participation in the Democracy Voucher program, be lifted.

SMC 2.04.630(f) says that the Commission shall release a candidate from the Spending Limit when (i) the candidate has demonstrated to the SEEC that an opponent has exceeded the limit, and (ii) that the excess is “material.”

One of our top opponents, Sara Nelson, reported total contributions of \$79,050 on her July 10 C4, including \$37,984 in June alone. Additionally, an independent expenditure on behalf of Sara Nelson (People for Sara Nelson) has reported \$84,406. Total contributions and expenditures between Nelson’s campaign and the IE combine for \$163,456. Given that Nelson raised nearly \$40,000 in June, we expect her to raise at least \$40,000 or more in July. We also expect People for Sara Nelson to raise significantly more funds before the primary. The two top donors to People for Sara Nelson, the Civic Alliance for a Sound Economy and Seattle Hospitality for Progress have a combined total of over \$500,000 reported to the state, indicating that these initial expenditures are just the beginning.

Our campaign believes that this \$13,456 (in addition to an expected additional \$40,000 or more) represents a material excess of the \$150,000 spending limit. In digital advertising alone, \$13,000 could reach 25,000 voters. Another \$40,000 could pay for a mail piece to 70,000 voters. Under the current spending cap, our campaign is constrained by our budget to respond to such expenditures.

For this reason, our campaign petitions the SEEC to release Jon Grant from the \$150,000 primary spending limit so that we may redeem \$150,000 in vouchers and re-open our real dollar fundraising efforts.

Sincerely,
Jon Grant