

Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission: Democracy Voucher Program Update

Commission Meeting: May 6, 2026

Candidates

All three candidates currently running are using DVP and two have qualified for funding.

Invoicing

Distributed \$106,700, representing redeemed 2,134 (\$50) vouchers.

Democracy Vouchers

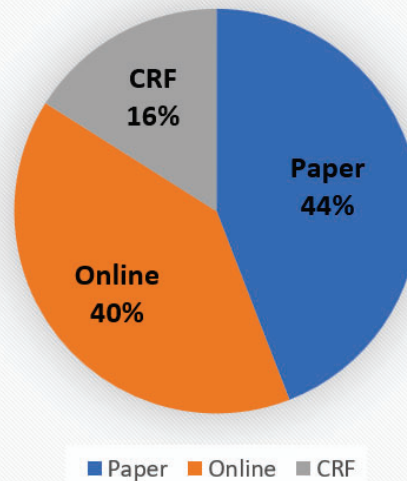
To date, 3,107 vouchers have been returned, representing 1,600 Seattle residents.

- Paper: 1,371
- Online: 1,238
- Campaign Forms: 498

Utilization of Available Program Funds

Year	Available Funds	Distributed Funds	Utilization Rate
2017	\$3,000,000	\$1,140,525	38%
2019	\$4,200,000	\$2,454,475	58%
2021	\$6,800,000	\$3,397,050	50%
2023	\$5,250,000	\$2,286,750	44%
2024	\$1,800,000	\$766,025	43%
2025	\$9,000,000	\$3,710,300	41%
2026	\$900,000	\$106,700	12%

2026 Percent of Vouchers Returned By Type



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Upcoming Dates

- May 4 through May 8 – Candidate Filing Week
- May 22 – Last day to enter the DVP
- August 4 – Primary Election

Community Liaison Outreach

The program often contracts with Department of Neighborhood's, Community Liaison program. This year, four liaisons are contracted to conduct outreach in English, Mandarin, and Amharic. Residents have expressed appreciation for the information and noted they previously underestimated the importance of democracy vouchers.