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Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission 2023 Election Report



Prepared by

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About the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission

The Commission is a seven-member, citizen body that interprets, administers and enforces the Seattle Elections Code, Ethics Code, Lobbying Code, and Whistleblower Protection Code. Three members are appointed by the Mayor, three are appointed by the City Council and the seventh is appointed by the other six members. All seven are confirmed by the City Council. The term of office for a commissioner is three years.

2023 Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission Members

Zack Pekelis, Chair
Kristin Hawes, Vice Chair

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Biennial Report on Election Financing

The SEEC publishes a report after each municipal election cycle showing the money raised to promote or oppose candidates and ballot issues.

Information on the contributions to, and expenditures by, candidates and ballot issue committees is available on the Commission's web site at seattle.gov/elections.

Further information about candidates in the Democracy Voucher Program can be found at seattle.gov/democracymvoucher/program-data.

Summary of 2023 Contributions

Candidates	Total Contributions	Candidate	Misc	Individuals & Groups			
				Voucher Proceeds	Monetary	No.	Average
Council District 1							
Preston Anderson	\$ 56,810	\$ 110	\$ 6	\$ 47,900	\$ 8,794	960	\$ 59.06
Lucy Barefoot	\$ 1,180	\$ 1,100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80	4	\$ 20.00
Stephen Brown	\$ 89,456	\$ 38,099	\$ 46	\$ 24,375	\$ 26,936	533	\$ 96.35
Maren Costa	\$ 192,484	\$ 100	\$ 6	\$ 142,100	\$ 50,288	2,299	\$ 83.69
Jean Iannelli Craciun	\$ 54,218	\$ 458	\$ 150	\$ 47,000	\$ 6,648	730	\$ 73.70
Mia Jacobson	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -
Rob Saka*	\$ 237,330	\$ 600	\$ 20	\$ 148,825	\$ 87,885	2,332	\$ 101.51
Phillip Tavel	\$ 59,265	\$ 3,465	\$ -	\$ 43,475	\$ 12,325	694	\$ 80.40
All Dist. 1	\$ 690,743	\$ 43,932	\$ 228	\$ 453,675	\$ 192,956	7,552	\$ 85.65
Council District 2							
Margaret Elisabeth	\$ 2,634	\$ 979	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,655	26	\$ 63.65
Tammy Morales*	\$ 206,799	\$ 1,100	\$ -	\$ 137,775	\$ 67,924	2,357	\$ 87.27
Tanya Woo	\$ 196,774	\$ 731	\$ 20	\$ 144,325	\$ 51,099	2,314	\$ 84.46
All Dist. 2	\$ 406,207	\$ 2,810	\$ 20	\$ 282,100	\$ 120,678	4,697	\$ 85.76
Council District 3							
Shobhit Agarwal	\$ 22,210	\$ 265	\$ -	\$ 17,925	\$ 4,020	344	\$ 63.79
Ry Armstrong	\$ 53,572	\$ 548	\$ 54	\$ 46,600	\$ 6,370	902	\$ 58.78
Andrew Ashiofu	\$ 59,419	\$ 10	\$ 1	\$ 56,000	\$ 3,403	1,138	\$ 52.20
Alexander Cooley	\$ 92,128	\$ 729	\$ 3	\$ 88,550	\$ 3,155	1,128	\$ 81.30
Robert Goodwin	\$ 16,551	\$ 305	\$ 1	\$ 13,450	\$ 2,795	367	\$ 44.27
Joy Hollingsworth*	\$ 220,937	\$ 410	\$ -	\$ 150,300	\$ 70,227	2,528	\$ 87.23
Efrain Hudnell	\$ 38,710	\$ 50	\$ -	\$ 21,925	\$ 16,735	555	\$ 69.66
Alex Hudson	\$ 194,903	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ 117,900	\$ 76,603	2,140	\$ 90.89
All Dist. 3	\$ 698,430	\$ 2,717	\$ 59	\$ 512,650	\$ 183,308	9,102	\$ 76.47
Council District 4							
George Artem	\$ 2,240	\$ 360	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,880	20	\$ 94.00
Ron Davis	\$ 210,131	\$ 1,525	\$ -	\$ 147,275	\$ 60,231	2,192	\$ 94.67
Maritza Rivera*	\$ 199,829	\$ 1,674	\$ -	\$ 99,625	\$ 98,530	1,732	\$ 114.41
Kenneth Wilson	\$ 93,664	\$ 220	\$ -	\$ 74,675	\$ 18,769	1,138	\$ 82.11
All Dist. 4	\$ 505,864	\$ 3,779	\$ -	\$ 321,575	\$ 179,410	5,082	\$ 98.58

Figure 1 City Council Districts 1-4

Data as of 1/29/24. Bolded names are Primary winners. "*" Winner of the General Election. Does not include candidates who were not on the ballot.

Summary of 2023 Contributions (continued)

Candidates	Total Contributions	Candidate	Misc	Individuals & Groups			
				Voucher Proceeds	Monetary	No.	Average
Council District 5							
Boegart Boardman Bibby	\$ 1,545	\$ 1,535	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10	1	\$ 10.00
Lucca Howard	\$ 2,909	\$ -	\$ 21	\$ -	\$ 2,888	151	\$ 19.26
Nilu Jenks	\$ 94,049	\$ 110	\$ -	\$ 66,750	\$ 27,189	1,099	\$ 85.48
Shane Macomber	\$ 28,079	\$ 21,011	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,068	74	\$ 95.51
Cathy Moore*	\$ 173,255	\$ 22,580	\$ 40	\$ 108,625	\$ 42,010	1,639	\$ 91.93
ChrisTiana Obeysumner	\$ 161,879	\$ 435	\$ -	\$ 141,450	\$ 19,994	2,122	\$ 76.08
Tyesha Reed	\$ 28,130	\$ 205	\$ -	\$ 15,925	\$ 12,000	454	\$ 61.51
Justin Simmons	\$ 6,001	\$ 3,891	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,110	30	\$ 70.33
Bobby Tucker	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -
Rebecca Leigh Williamson	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -
All Dist. 5	\$ 495,847	\$ 49,767	\$ 61	\$ 332,750	\$ 113,269	5,570	\$ 80.09
Council District 6							
Pete Hanning	\$ 201,602.00	\$ 119.00	\$ -	\$ 138,900	\$ 62,583	1,984	\$ 101.55
Dale Kutzera	\$ 2,087	\$ 1,932	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 155	4	\$ 38.75
Jon Lisbin	\$ 2,551	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51	31	\$ 1.65
Victoria Palmer	\$ 26,926	\$ 7,645	\$ 195	\$ 8,825	\$ 10,261	294	\$ 65.58
Dan Strauss*	\$ 187,517	\$ 265	\$ 22	\$ 122,525	\$ 64,705	1,961	\$ 95.49
Shea Wilson	\$ 28,867	\$ -	\$ 2	\$ 18,575	\$ 10,290	361	\$ 79.96
All Dist. 6	\$ 449,550	\$ 12,461	\$ 219	\$ 288,825	\$ 148,045	4,635	\$ 94.30
Council District 7							
Isabelle Kerner	\$ 3,454	\$ 3,374	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80	4	\$ 20.00
Robert Kettle*	\$ 246,044	\$ 4,555	\$ -	\$ 88,425	\$ 153,064	1,777	\$ 135.90
Andrew Lewis	\$ 214,781	\$ 4,652	\$ 19	\$ 90,850	\$ 119,260	1,741	\$ 120.69
Aaron Marshall	\$ 28,432	\$ 7,505	\$ 2	\$ -	\$ 20,925	100	\$ 209.27
Olga Sagan	\$ 86,151	\$ 21,893	\$ 1	\$ 24,825	\$ 39,432	641	\$ 100.25
Wade Sowders	\$ 1,725	\$ 1,725	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -
All Dist. 7	\$ 580,587	\$ 43,704	\$ 22	\$ 204,100	\$ 332,761	4,263	\$ 125.94
TOTAL City Council	\$ 3,827,228	\$ 159,170	\$ 609	\$ 2,395,675	\$ 1,270,427	40,901	\$ 89.65

Figure 2 Seattle City Council Districts 5-7

Data as of 1/29/24. Bolded names are Primary winners. ** Winner of the General Election. Does not include candidates who were not on the ballot.

In 2023, contributions to City Council District candidates were lower overall compared to 2019. However, the ratio of voucher proceeds to monetary contributions increased. Candidates received almost twice as much in voucher proceeds (\$2.40 million) as they did in monetary contributions (\$1.28 million). In 2019, voucher proceeds and monetary contributions were virtually equal.

Number of Contributors by Contribution Size

After an increase in the number of candidates and contributors in the last two election cycles for Seattle City Council District elections, 2023 saw a drop of 15 percent in the number of candidates on the ballot and an almost 25 percent drop in the number of contributors.

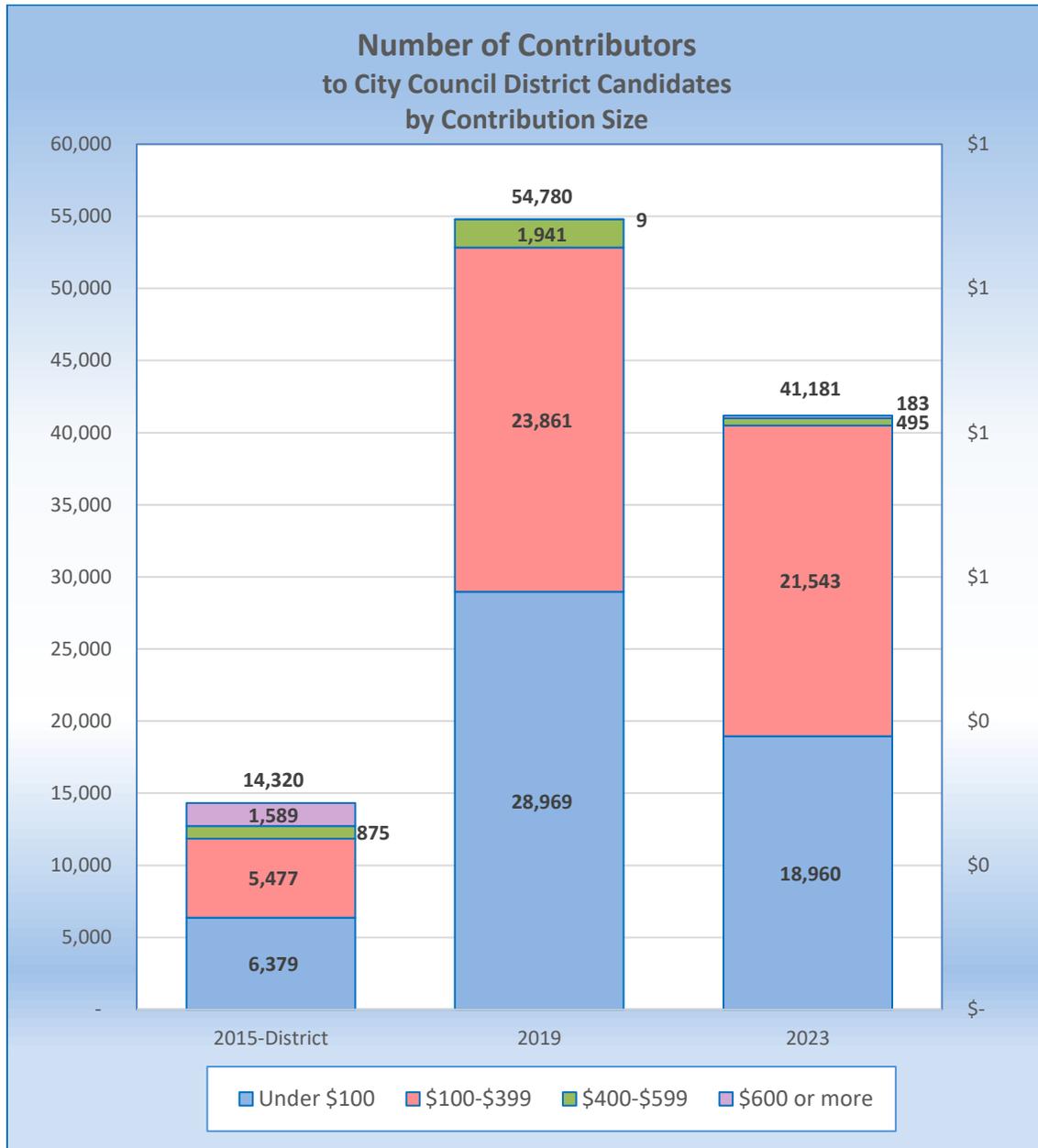


Figure 3. Includes all candidate campaigns for Seattle City Council Districts 1-7.

Percentage of Contributors to City Council District Candidates

The percentage of high-dollar contributors remained under half a percent. Mid-range contributions (\$100-\$599) increased by seven percent. Prior to the implementation of the Democracy Voucher Program, high-dollar contributors were regularly between six and twelve percent of the contributors to campaigns.

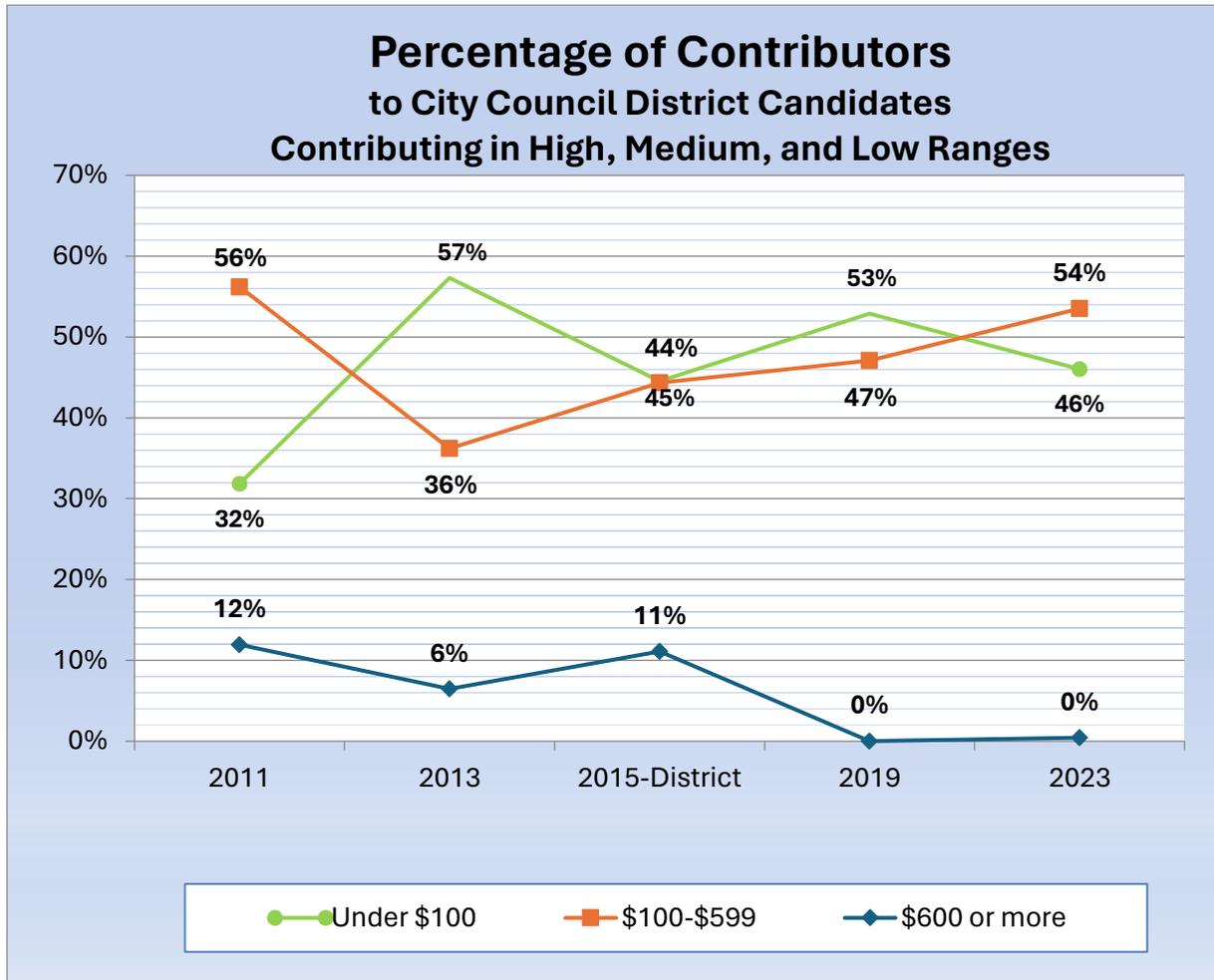


Figure 4. Includes all candidate campaigns for Seattle City Council Districts 1-7.

Average Contributions

Despite a 20 percent increase in the contribution limit from \$500 to \$600 in 2023, the average contribution to Seattle City Council District campaigns was virtually unchanged.

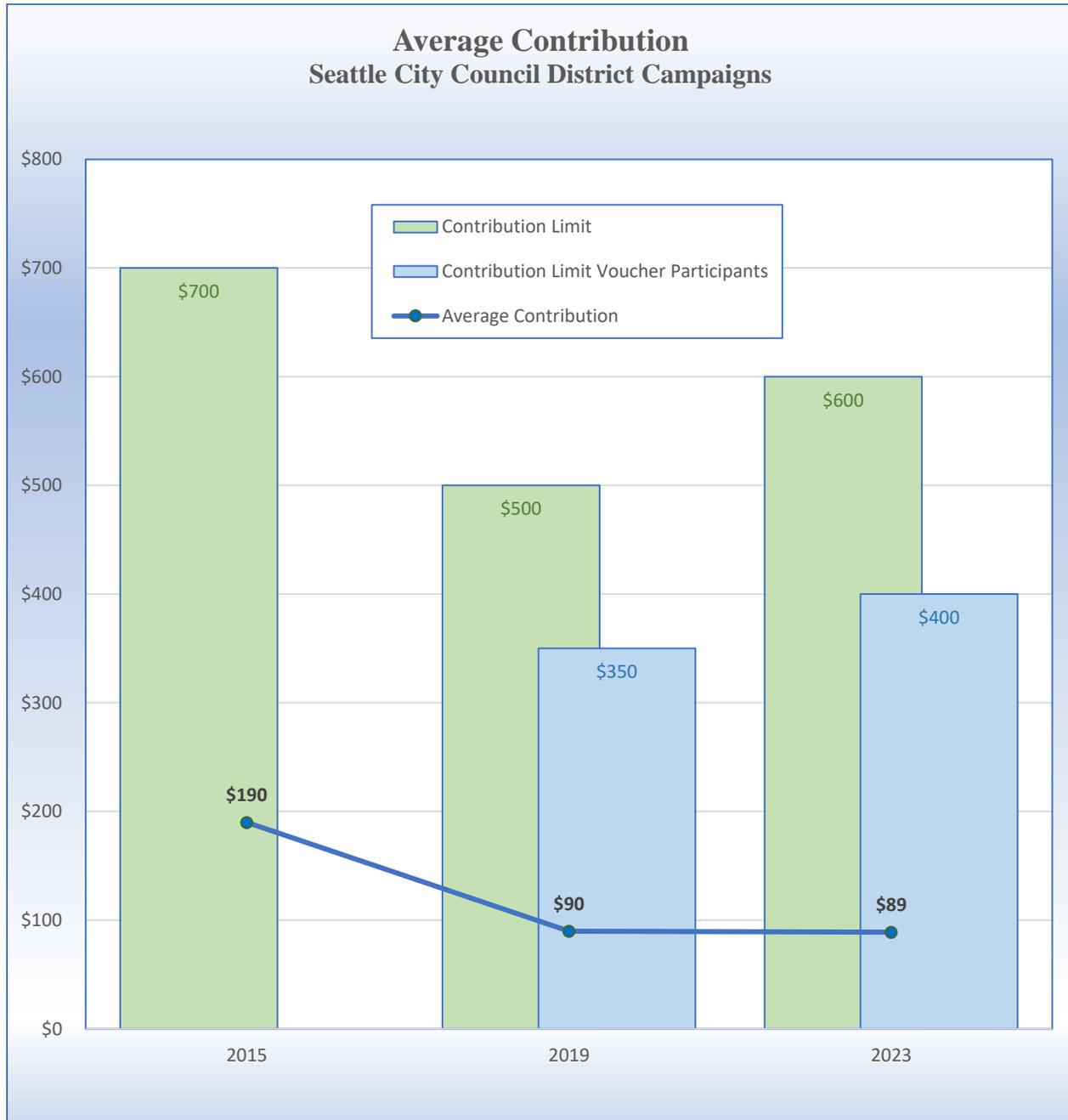


Figure 5 Includes all candidate campaigns for Seattle City Council Districts 1-7.

Geographic Distribution of Contributors

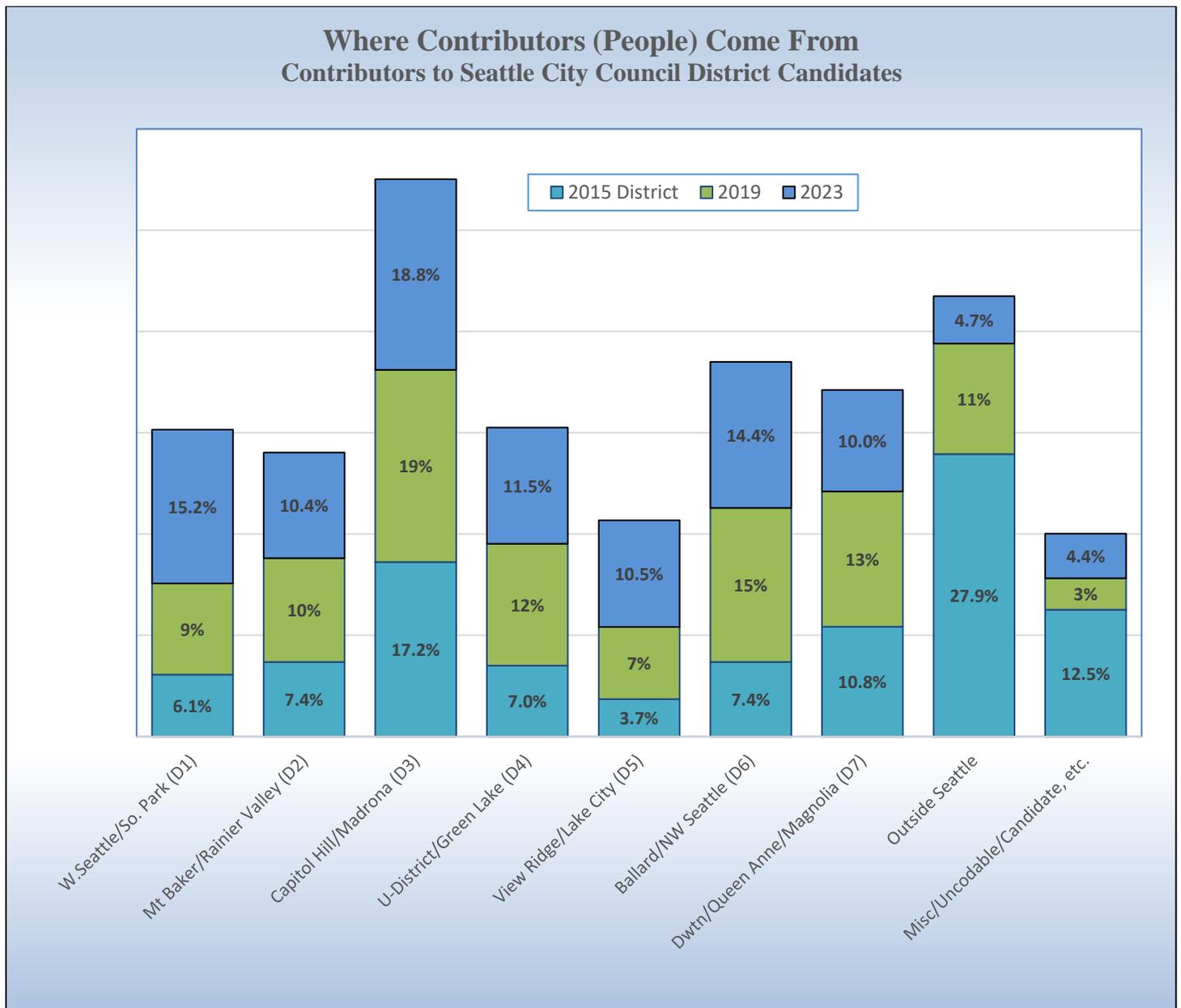


Figure 6. Includes all candidate campaigns for Seattle City Council Districts 1-7.

This chart shows where contributors to Seattle City Council campaigns live or work. In 2015, more than one in four contributors reported an address outside Seattle. In 2023, roughly one in 20 did.

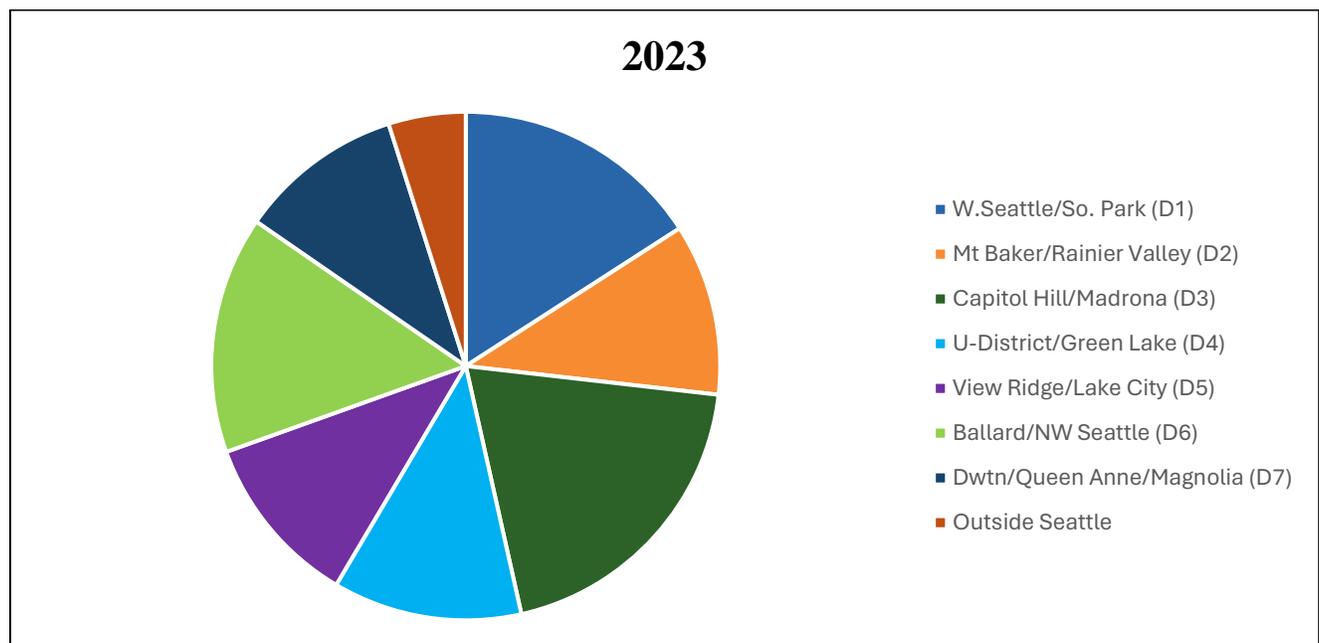
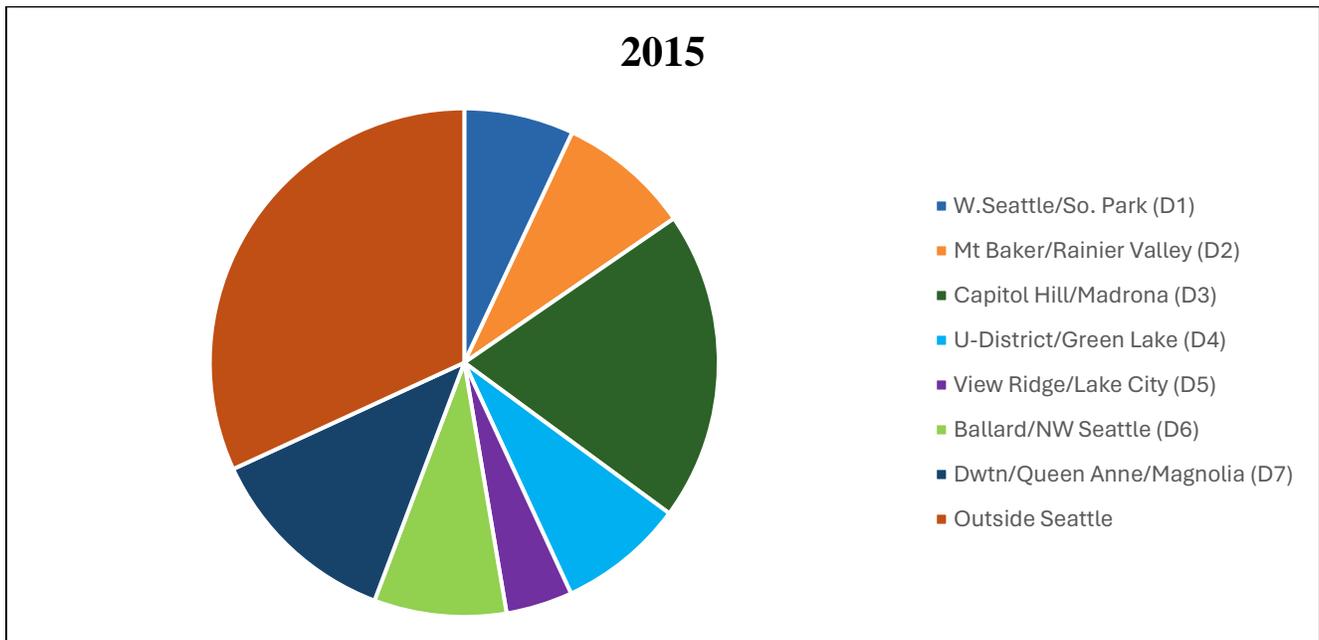
This year, for the first time, contributors in each of the seven districts accounted for ten percent or more of the contributors to City Council campaigns.

Geographic Distribution of Contributors (continued)

The two charts below show how the contributions to City Council candidates running in District elections shifted from 2015 to 2023. 2015 was the first year that candidates ran in district elections. At that time 28 percent of contributors to City Council District elections came from outside of Seattle. By 2023, the numbers are more evenly distributed across each district. And 95 percent of contributors come from inside Seattle.

The charts show the percentage of contributors from each district in Seattle and from outside Seattle. These charts do not include uncodable contributors.

Where Contributors to City Council District Elections Come From



Independent Expenditures in Seattle City Council District Races

The chart below shows the amount spent on all independent expenditures (red bar) vs. the amount contributed to all City Council District candidates (green line).

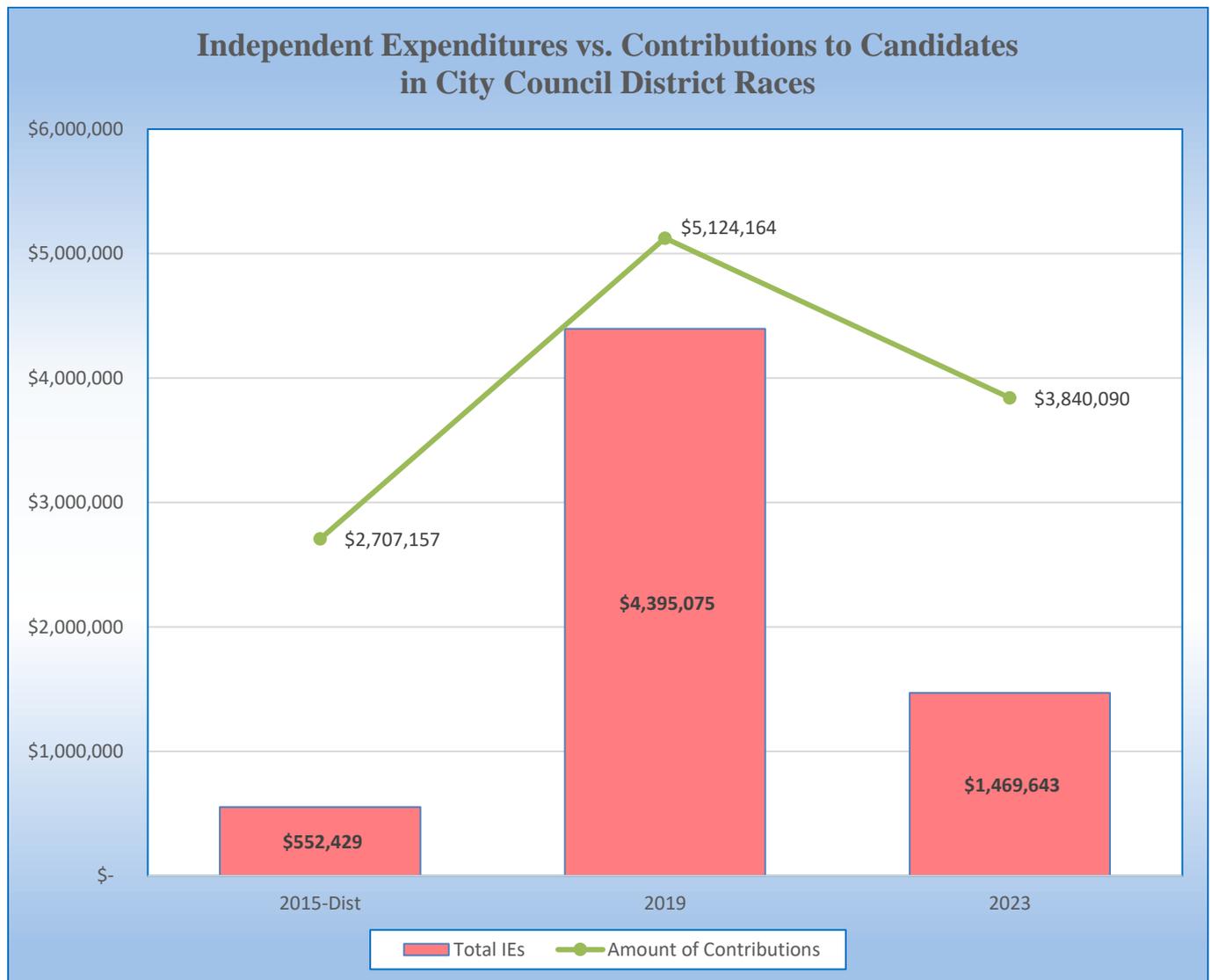


Figure 7. Independent Expenditures supporting or opposing Seattle City Council candidates in Districts 1-7

Top 20 Funders of Independent Expenditures

The individuals or entities listed below contributed to one or more Independent Expenditure committees, or directly spent their funds on independent expenditures in support of or opposition to Seattle City Council district candidate(s).

The total amount spent on IEs this year was significantly less than in 2019, the last time the City Council District elections were on the ballot.

Top 20 Funders of Independent Expenditures		
1	National Assn of Realtors Fund	\$225,781
2	Affordable Housing Council/MBASKC	\$145,000
3	NAIOP	\$113,977
4	Unite HERE Local 8	\$100,179
5	SEIU 775 Quality Care	\$64,000
6	UFCW IUActive Ballot Club, GF WA	\$57,500
7	Clise Properties/Al Clise	\$45,000
8	Saltchuk Resources, Inc.	\$45,000
9	Seattle Hospitality for Progress	\$45,000
10	WA Multi Family Housing Assn	\$32,000
11	Dunn Lumber/Michael Dunn	\$27,000
12	George Petrie	\$25,000
13	Hunters Capital	\$25,000
14	John Goodman	\$25,000
15	John Meisenbach	\$25,000
16	Joshua Green/Joshua Green Corp	\$25,000
17	RC Hedreen Co	\$25,000
18	Sarah Barton	\$25,000
19	Associated General Contractors of WA	\$22,000
20	Prometheus Real Estate Group	\$22,000

2023 City Council Vote Returns

Primary Election Vote Returns – August 1, 2023

Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout
480,087	171,956	35.82%

Council District 1	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout
	74,395	27,033	36.34%
Lucy Barefoot		767	2.89%
Stephen Brown		1,659	6.26%
Jean Iannelli Craciun		838	3.16%
Rob Saka		6,397	24.12%
Preston Anderson		2,222	8.38%
Maren Costa		8,787	33.13%
Mia Jacobson		472	1.78%
Phil Tavel		5,324	20.07%
Write-in		55	0.21%
Total Votes Tallied		26,521	100.00%

Council District 2	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout
	65,763	20,156	30.65%
Tammy J. Morales		10,326	52.28%
Tanya Woo		8,406	42.56%
Margaret Elisabeth		937	4.74%
Write-in		81	0.41%
Total Votes Tallied		19,750	100.00%

Council District 3	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout
	73,844	26,824	36.33%
Alex Cooley		1,118	2.11%
Bobby Goodwin		2,755	5.19%
Ry Armstrong		488	0.92%
Shobhit Agarwal		406	0.76%
Joy Hollingsworth		9,690	18.25%
Andrew Ashiofu		1,059	1.99%
Alex Hudson		9,601	18.08%
Efrain Hudnell		1,081	2.04%
Write-in		82	0.15%
Total Votes Tallied		26,280	100.00%

Council District 4	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout
	60,671	22,965	37.85%
Ron Davis		10,105	44.81%
Ken Wilson		4,772	21.16%
Maritza Rivera		7,174	31.82%
George Artem		460	2.04%
Write-in		38	0.17%
Total Votes Tallied		22,549	100.00%

Council District 5	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout
	69,655	24,567	35.27%
Shane Macomber		356	1.49%
ChrisTiana ObeySumner		5,823	24.41%
Justin Simmons		2,619	10.98%
Rebecca Williamson		317	1.33%
Nilu Jenks		4,494	18.84%
Boegart Bibby		1,021	4.28%
Cathy Moore		7,327	30.72%
Lucca Murdoch Howard		266	1.12%
Bobby J. Tucker		442	1.85%
Tye Reed		1,103	4.62%
Write-in		84	0.35%
Total Votes Tallied		23,852	100.00%

Council District 6	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout
	77,322	31,372	40.57%
Dan Strauss		15,869	51.76%
Shea Wilson		1,900	6.20%
Pete Hanning		8,996	29.34%
Victoria Palmer		1,355	4.42%
Dale Kutzera		1,383	4.51%
Jon Lisbin		1,016	3.31%
Write-in		140	0.46%
Total Votes Tallied		30,659	39.65%

2023 City Council Vote Returns – Primary (continued)

Council District 7	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout
	58,437	19,039	32.58%
Andrew J. Lewis		8,114	43.45%
Aaron Marshall		1,372	7.35%
Olga Sagan		2,429	13.01%
Wade Sowders		323	1.73%
Bob Kettle		5,888	31.53%
Isabelle Kerner		502	2.69%
Write-in		46	0.25%
Total Votes Tallied		18,674	31.96%

General Election Vote Returns – November 7, 2023

Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout
480,980	220,938	45.93%

Council District 1	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout
	74,574	34,785	46.64%
Maren Costa		15,431	45.46%
Rob Saka		18,382	54.15%
Write-in		132	0.39%
Total Votes Tallied		33,945	45.52%

Council District 5	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout
	69,549	31,266	44.96%
Cathy Moore		19,334	64.11%
ChrisTiana ObeySumner		10,729	35.58%
Write-in		93	0.31%
Total Votes Tallied		30,156	43.29%

Council District 2	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout
	65,990	26,479	40.13%
Tammy J. Morales		13,123	50.65%
Tanya Woo		12,720	49.10%
Write-in		64	0.25%
Total Votes Tallied		25,907	39.26%

Council District 6	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout
	77,438	40,537	52.35%
Dan Strauss		20,601	52.31%
Pete Hanning		18,586	47.19%
Write-in		199	0.51%
Total Votes Tallied		39,386	50.86%

Council District 3	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout
	73,945	34,584	46.77%
Joy Hollingsworth		17,805	52.94%
Alex Hudson		15,709	46.71%
Write-in		119	0.35%
Total Votes Tallied		33,633	45.48%

Council District 7	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout
	58,884	24,178	41.06%
Andrew J. Lewis		11,512	48.91%
Bob Kettle		11,951	50.78%
Write-in		74	0.31%
Total Votes Tallied		23,537	39.97%

Council District 4	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout
	60,600	29,109	48.03%
Ron Davis		13,986	49.42%
Maritza Rivera		14,221	50.25%
Write-in		92	0.33%
Total Votes Tallied		28,299	46.70%