

SEATTLE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMISSION RULE

Authorizing Candidates' Official Campaign Websites to Host Democracy Voucher Replacement Forms 2022

Whereas, the Democracy Voucher Program gives Seattle voters certificates that the voters can use to financially support Seattle campaigns; and

Whereas, when a voter is unable to locate their democracy vouchers, the voter may sign a Campaign Replacement Form identifying the campaign(s) to which the voter wishes to assign their vouchers and in what amounts; and

Whereas, voters may submit Campaign Replacement Forms to campaigns or to the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission; and

Whereas, individuals registered as campaign representatives may collect Campaign Replacement Forms from voters; and

Whereas, because of the COVID-19 public health emergency that reached the United States in early 2020, the Washington State Governor issued Proclamations mandating social distancing; and

Whereas, for the Democracy Voucher Program to remain a viable option for campaigns, the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (SEEC or "Commission") recognized the need for immediate action to ensure the safety of campaign workers and allow electronic collection of Democracy Vouchers; and

Whereas, on April 7, 2021, the Commission adopted an Emergency Rule authorizing campaign websites to host Democracy Voucher Campaign Replacement Forms; and

Whereas, on June 2, 2021, the Commission adopted a Rule authorizing campaign websites to host Democracy Voucher Campaign Replacement Forms and regulating in-person collection of Campaign Replacement Forms; and

Whereas, both the Emergency Rule adopted in April 2021, and the portion of the June 2021 Rule regulating campaign website posting of Campaign Replacement Forms, indicated that each regulation's effective period ended 48 hours subsequent to the Governor rescinding any proclamations or other authority mandating social distancing, such that person-to-person solicitation of voter support is allowed or feasible; and

Whereas, in post-election feedback sessions between SEEC staff and campaigns, campaigns expressed that the ability to host Campaign Replacement Forms on campaign websites was a positive change and a flexible approach to campaigning; and

Whereas, authorizing campaigns' official websites to continue hosting Campaign Replacement Forms would positively impact the Democracy Voucher program by connecting residents directly with candidates by way of candidates' websites, and allow residents to easily give vouchers to a candidate without having to find the paper voucher or request a new voucher.

Now, therefore, pursuant to the authority of SMC 2.04.090 and 3.20.030, the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission determines the following:

Section 1. The Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission repeals the SEEC Emergency Rule Regarding Replacement Democracy Vouchers, which was adopted by the Commission at its meeting on April 7, 2021.

Section 2. The Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission repeals, in its entirety, SEEC Rule Regarding Replacement Democracy Vouchers, which was adopted by the Commission at its meeting on June 2, 2021.

Section 3. The Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission authorizes candidates' official campaign websites to host Democracy Voucher Campaign Replacement Forms if the following conditions are met:

- A. The Replacement Form may only be posted on the campaign's official website. The Replacement Form shall not be posted on a third-party's or contractor's website.
- B. Only the first signature line can be set as a required field. The remaining signature lines must be set as optional fields.
- C. The website shall not provide the option to print the Replacement Form.

Section 4. For Replacement Forms submitted to the Commission (whether electronically or on paper), the Commission will accept Replacement Forms for processing only if:

- A. Submissions contain current and complete information; and
- B. The campaign has submitted to the Commission the name of the representative who processed the individual Replacement Form.

Approved by the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission on _____, 2022.