

DRAFT Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission Elections Code Rules

Rule 17 Revised Contribution Limits

A. New Contribution Limit under SMC 2.04.370

Original Contribution Limit	\$500.00
CPI-W index: October 31, 2015 to September 30, 2025	36.91% growth
Contribution Limit including CPI-W Adjustment	\$684.55

Based on the authority provided by SMC 2.04.370.H, the Commission establishes an updated campaign contribution limit of **\$700** effective as of **January 1, 2026**.

B. Contribution Limits Applicable to Democracy Voucher Participants

The original Democracy Voucher Program limited participating candidates to contributions from any individual or entity at \$500 for Mayoral candidates or \$250 for City Attorney or City Council candidates during one election cycle, including any contribution used to qualify for democracy vouchers, but excluding the value of democracy vouchers assigned to such candidate (subject to exceptions provided in Subchapter VIII of SMC Chapter 2.04). SMC 2.04.630.B.3. The inflation rate since the enactment of the Democracy Voucher Program is **36.91 percent**.

Based on the authority provided by SMC 2.04.690.D, and to ensure consistency with campaign contribution limits established in 2.04.370.B, and to meet the goals and purposes of the Program, the Commission ~~establishes updated~~ **maintains** Democracy Voucher program limits on campaign contributions at **\$650** for Mayoral candidates and \$350 for City Attorney or City Council candidates during the **2027** election cycle, as calculated by SMC 2.04.630.B.3, effective as of [date approved by Commission]. **Prior to the 2029 election cycle, the program limits for participating Mayor, City Attorney, and City Council candidates will be adjusted.**

Reviser's note: Rule 18.B. The Program participant limit on campaign contributions from any individual or entity shall be \$350 for **District City Council candidates during the 2026 special election.**