

**DRAFT Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission
Elections Code Rules**

Rule 18 Special Elections

A. Maximum Campaign Valuations Related to the Democracy Voucher Program

Position	Primary Election (\$)	Total for primary and general elections (\$)
At-large City Councilmember	\$225,000	\$450,000
District City Councilmember	\$112,500	\$225,000

Maximum Campaign Valuations under Subchapter VIII are otherwise addressed in Rule 16.H.

B. Contribution Limits Applicable to Democracy Voucher Participants

The Democracy Voucher Program participant limit on campaign contributions from any individual or entity shall be \$350 for City Council candidates during **the 2026** special election cycle, including any contribution used to qualify for democracy vouchers, but excluding the value of democracy vouchers assigned to such candidates (subject to exceptions provided in Subchapter VIII of SMC Chapter 2.04). SMC 2.04.630.B.3.

This modification supplements what is described in Rule 17.B. related to contribution limits applicable to Democracy Voucher Program participants regarding other election cycles.

C. Number of Democracy Vouchers Provided to Eligible Individuals

For each **District** City Council position for which a special election is held in **2026**, two (2) democracy vouchers valued at **\$50 each** shall be **issued** to eligible **District 5** individuals beginning **March 16, 2026**.

More generally, democracy voucher issuance is otherwise addressed in SMC 2.04.620.

D. Candidate Qualification for Democracy Voucher Program – Timing

If a special election is called, the reference in SMC 2.04.630.B. to “on or after July 1, the year before a municipal election year” is inapplicable. For a special election, SMC 2.04.630.B., in relevant part, shall be interpreted to apply as follows:

To seek qualification for the Democracy Voucher Program, the candidate shall file with the Commission, within two weeks after filing a declaration of candidacy, a pledge attesting to the candidate's intent to participate, asserting that the candidate shall timely file or has filed a declaration of candidacy for the office indicated, and that the candidate shall comply with applicable campaign laws and the following: ...

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