

DVP UPDATE FOR CAMPAIGNS #5

May 9, 2023

CAMPAIGN UPDATES

All updates are posted on our resources page and contain valuable information. Review them [here](#).



RULE CHANGE

On May 3, 2023, the Commission amended Elections Code Rule 15 Monetary Thresholds. The new threshold for reporting contributions as a lump sum goes from "more than \$25" to "more than \$100." The new threshold for reporting employer and occupation goes from "more than \$100" to "more than \$250."

- Exceptions - You must continue itemizing all qualifying contributions and all Democracy Voucher proceeds in your reports.

CANDIDATE FILING WEEK BEGINS MAY 15

Filing a Declaration of Candidacy with King County Elections is required to maintain your candidacy and enrollment in the Democracy Voucher Program. You will file your Declaration of Candidacy with King County Elections to put your name on the ballot. You may use voucher proceeds to pay the filing fee. Go to [King County Elections](#) to learn more about filing for office.

DVP MID - YEAR MEDIA BLAST

The program has two upcoming media campaigns.

- "Looking for your Democracy Vouchers?" media blast the week of May 29 to encourage residents to request replacement vouchers. Feel free to post our link to the [Replacement Request online form](#).
- "The Final List of Candidates is Available" media blast and press release the week of June 5.
 - **Be sure to have your [Candidate Introduction](#) in!**

SEATTLE/KING COUNTY VIDEO VOTERS' GUIDE

This week, you will receive an email from ethicsandelections@seattle.gov inviting you to sign up for a taping time between May 24 and June 2 at the Seattle Channel studio.

DEBATE REQUIREMENT

DVP candidates agreed to attend three public debates ahead of the primary (and then three ahead of the general). Review the [Candidate Debate Reporting form](#) to ensure you attend enough debates that meet the debate criteria. The Democracy Voucher Program will send a reminder to complete this form shortly after the primary election day.

DETERMINING THE RESULTS OF THE PRIMARY

For the purpose of disbursing voucher proceeds, the SEEC Executive Director has the authority to "call" the results of the Primary if the top two vote-getters are apparent.

ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS OF THE PRIMARY

All candidates in a race will be notified of the top two vote-getters once the race is called by the Executive Director.

FOR CANDIDATES WHO DO NOT ADVANCE TO THE GENERAL

- **Closing the books** - Primary-only DVP campaigns must close their books 45 days after the results of the Primary are determined unless a request for an extension has been granted by the Executive Director.
- **If your qualification is pending** - Candidates may continue to try to qualify after the Primary Election day. If you're still qualifying, we recommend getting your qualifying forms to us as soon as possible so there is sufficient time to validate your submission ahead of the 45-day deadline.
- **Qualified candidates** - Candidates must return unspent democracy voucher proceeds to the program 45 days from when the results of the Primary are known. Contact Polly Grow if you have questions about closing out your campaign.
- **Last chance for redeemed vouchers** - Vouchers received by the SEEC after September 1, 2023, cannot be redeemed.
- **Returning unused proceeds** - Unused voucher proceeds are returned by a check made out to Seattle Ethics and Elections and either delivered to our office or mailed to Seattle Ethics and Elections, MS SMT-4010, PO Box 94729, Seattle, WA, 98124-4729.
- **Warning about processing delays** - Election Day is **August 1st**, and this is a very busy time for King County Elections. It is unlikely they will be available to process qualifying documents or vouchers in the days/weeks surrounding Election Day. Please take this into consideration if you are still attempting to qualify or have vouchers in hand.

FOR CANDIDATES WHO ADVANCE TO THE GENERAL

DVP will send an email with information including the next disbursement timing, how to calculate money raised and spent above the Primary MCV (if released), reinstatement of the MCV and the \$300 individual contribution limit (if released), and a reminder about the next three-debate requirement.