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All Democracy Voucher Candidates Max Out Campaign Limits and Participation in the Program Nearly Doubles

City of Seattle – October 31, 2019

The twelfth and final candidate in the Democracy Voucher program has reached the \$150,000 limit in funding. The Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (SEEC) prepares to issue its last check to its final candidate, which marks the closing of the Democracy Voucher program for the 2019 election cycle.

The SEEC is excited to see nearly twice as many residents use their vouchers this year compared to when the program first launched in 2017.

As an effort to increase participation levels amongst Seattle's hardest-to-reach communities, the SEEC awarded \$150,000 in contracts to community partners such as Literacy Source and the Lake City Collective in north Seattle.

"It was a powerful experience to involve community members as ambassadors, especially those who had never done this kind of work before," said Marisa Parshotam, Literacy Source's Digital Literacy and Community Projects Coordinator. "Many of them were happy to do a job where they could speak in their own language and help others understand this program."

Coming 2021, Seattle residents will receive new vouchers and may assign them to participating candidates for mayor, city attorney, and the city council at-large races.

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