

# Seattle Democracy Vouchers



**An easy-to-read guide**



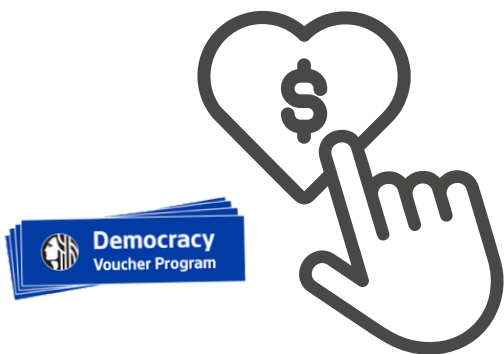
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# What are Seattle Democracy Vouchers?



Seattle Democracy Vouchers support people running for public office - like city council.



People who live in Seattle are sent vouchers, which they can donate to local candidates.

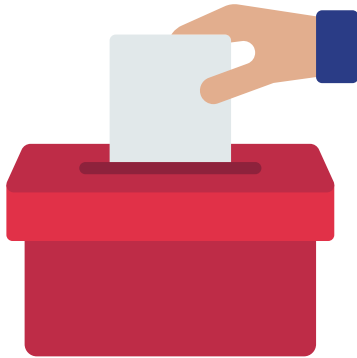


Candidates use vouchers to pay for campaign costs - like signs, websites, staff, and transportation.



Vouchers make running for office less expensive for candidates.

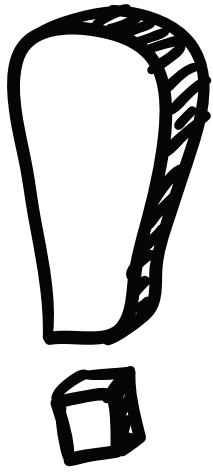
It also means more people can support campaigns.



Seattle voters created the Democracy Voucher Program in 2015.



Now, residents are sent 4 vouchers, worth \$25 each, to use in local elections.



Democracy vouchers do not change your eligibility for SSI, Medicaid or other support.



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Seattle Democracy Vouchers can only be used for Seattle city council, city attorney, or mayor races.



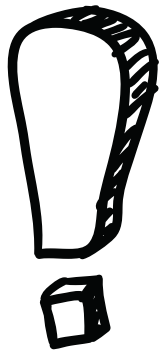
Questions? Visit [www.seattle.gov/democracymv/i-am-a-seattle-resident](http://www.seattle.gov/democracymv/i-am-a-seattle-resident)

# Who can use Seattle Democracy Vouchers?



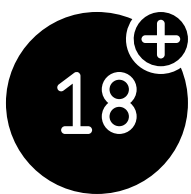
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Most adults living in Seattle can use democracy vouchers.



You do not have to vote.

You do not have to be registered to vote.



You must:

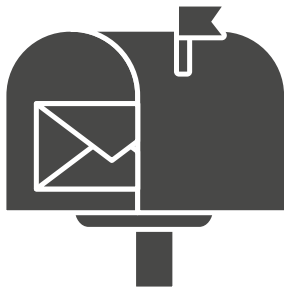
- Be 18 or older
- Live in Seattle
- Be a U.S. citizen, a U.S. national, or a lawful permanent resident (green card holder)





This includes:

- Homeless people
- People without a permanent address



Registered voters get vouchers in the mail.



Other Seattle residents can apply for vouchers.

[Democracy Voucher Application](#)



People who live outside Seattle cannot use Seattle Democracy Vouchers.

# How Do I Use My Vouchers?

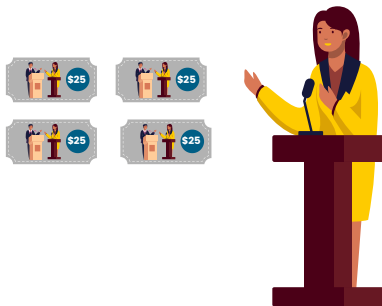


First, decide who you want to donate to.



You can learn about candidates online.

- Candidate introductions: <https://bit.ly/DemVoucherIntros>



You can donate all your vouchers to 1 candidate.

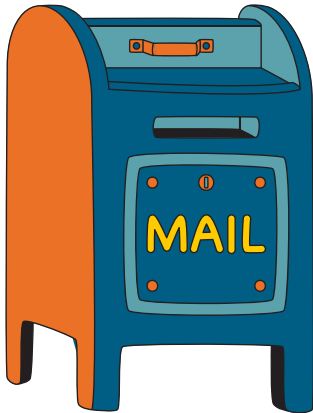


Or, you can donate to several candidates.



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Second, turn in your vouchers.



You can mail in your vouchers.

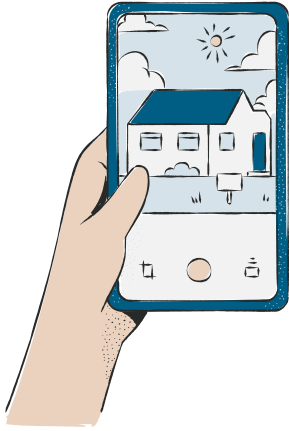
Remember:  
You can use the pre-paid envelope.



You can hand your vouchers to a candidate or campaign worker.



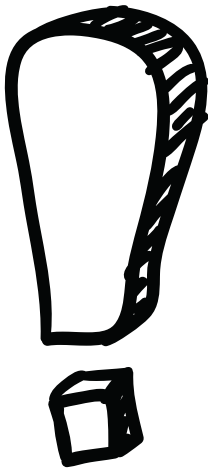
You can turn in vouchers through the Democracy Voucher Online Portal.



You can take a photo  
and email it to  
democracyvoucher  
@seattle.gov



During an election,  
you can drop off your  
vouchers in a ballot  
box.



All vouchers **MUST** be  
turned in by the end of  
November.

# Why are Democracy Vouchers important?



Running for a public office is expensive.



It takes a lot of money to run a campaign.



This makes donations to campaigns very important to candidates.



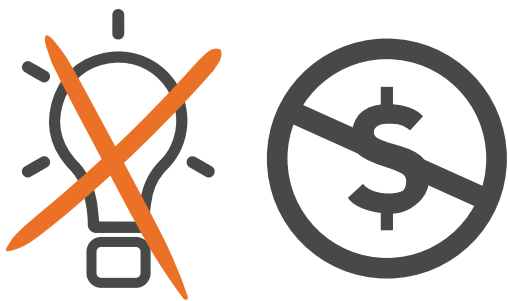
Candidates spend time looking for donors.

Candidates listen to people who can give them money.

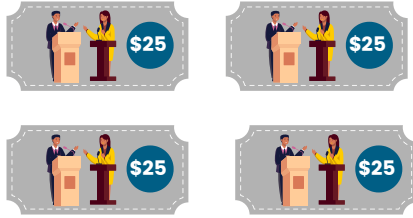


But most people can't afford to give campaigns a lot of money.

Some people can't give any money.



Candidates may not hear what people without money need or want.



That is where Seattle's democracy vouchers make a difference.



People who do not have a lot of money can donate their vouchers.

More candidates can afford to run for office.



People with different experiences can be an important part of the election process.

# Can't Find Your Vouchers?



You can ask for replacement vouchers if you lose them.



You can also apply for vouchers if they weren't mailed to you.

<https://www.seattle.gov/democracymvoucher/i-am-a-seattle-resident/apply-now>

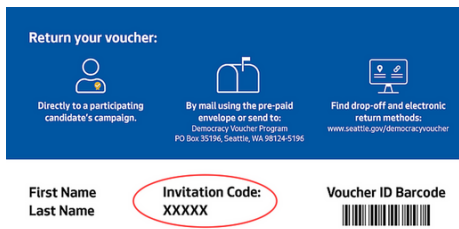


You cannot get more vouchers if you already used all of them.

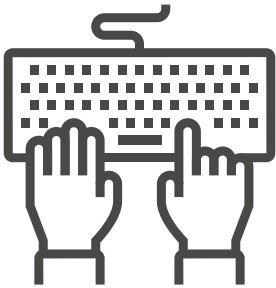
# Using the Online Portal



You can use the Democracy Voucher Online Portal to send in vouchers.



Sign in using the code from your vouchers.



Type the name of the candidate you want to give your democracy voucher to.



Electronically sign the online voucher.

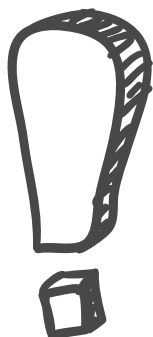
# Using a Physical Voucher



Write the name of a candidate where it says “name of candidate.”

*Signature*

Sign your name on the signature line.



Try to write as clearly as possible.



Vouchers can be rejected if candidate names aren't clear.



# Important Websites

## To apply for or replace vouchers

<https://www.seattle.gov/democracymvoucher/i-am-a-seattle-resident/apply-now>

## To check who is accepting vouchers

<https://www.seattle.gov/democracymvoucher/i-am-a-seattle-resident/participating-candidates>

## To use the online portal

<https://www.seattle.gov/democracymvoucher/i-am-a-seattle-resident/online-portal>

## To learn about candidates

<https://bit.ly/DemVoucherIntros>



Remember! Donating vouchers is not the same as voting. You should still vote if you can.



# Words to know

**Campaign** – Trying to get someone to vote for someone or something

**Candidate** – Someone running for public office

**Donor** – Someone who gives to a cause

**Election** – The process for voting

**Public office** – An elected position in government, like a mayor or city council member

**Resident** – A person who lives somewhere.

A Seattle resident lives in Seattle

**Voucher** – A note that can be exchanged for something.

A Seattle Democracy Voucher can be exchanged for a \$25 donation to a campaign.