

Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission: Democracy Voucher Program Update

Commission Meeting: June 10, 2020

Based on the March 4, 2020 meeting, Democracy Voucher Program staff request the following changes to the Community Based Organization contracting program for the 2021 election cycle. Also shared are known program changes in response to the three items discussed.

Increase Funding and Duration of Contract

Decision Request

1. Increase funding to \$225,000. Contract funding would continue to come entirely from the program budget.
2. Expand RFP timeline to allow for meaningful responses and pre-bid Q/A with organizations.
 - a. 2021 RFP timeline:
 - i. July 6, 2020 – RFP opens
 - ii. September 18, 2020 – RFP closes
 - iii. October 2, 2020 – Award notice

Connect Candidates and Communities

There are no decision requests on this item. Although staff will not pursue adding an equity requirement into program participation for candidates, we do want to share the following items already underway that may help achieve the goal of connecting candidates with our Seattle communities:

1. Retain current candidate introduction format but increase word count from 150 to 200 and add a photo option.
2. Share the City's list of approved translation and interpreter contractors with campaigns – completed.
3. Provide guidance to CBOs on how they can engage candidates without violating their outreach contract or other electioneering rules.
4. Inform candidates who our outreach partners are and provide contact information.
5. Create an online calendar for our CBOs to post events on and share this with campaigns – in progress.
6. Provide audio translations of introductions – research in progress.

Clarify Legal Permanent Resident Eligibility

While there are no decision requests on this item, staff wish to share the following program changes.

1. Create LPR-specific outreach materials with quotes from local leaders.
2. Where appropriate, request RFP responders to show how they will distribute materials and inform on eligibility requirements.