

Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission: Democracy Voucher Program Update

Commission Meeting: March 4, 2020

Discussion Items

In November 2018, the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission (SEEC) budgeted \$150,000 of the Democracy Voucher Program (DVP) budget towards contracting opportunities with community-based organizations (CBOs) to conduct targeted outreach in Seattle's more difficult-to-reach communities.

As described in the February 5, 2020 memo, the following three items are presented to the commission for discussion:

Increase Funding and Duration of Contract

For Discussion

- Should we increase the overall contract budget?
 - If yes, should we use DVP funds or seek general funds?
 - What is the recommended increase?
- Should we produce/pay for outreach materials in additional media formats?
 - If yes, should we use DVP funds or seek general funds?
 - What should we budget?

Pending Program Changes

Increase the duration of the contract to ensure contract awards are known by the first of December, the year prior to election year. Contract closing remains October of the election year.

Connect Candidates and Communities

For Discussion

- Should we require an equity component as part of the program requirements?
 - If yes, would you like us to research and provide possible solutions?
- Should we change the candidate statement submission form into a Q and A format?

Pending Program Changes

- Provide information to CBOs about how they can engage candidates without violating their outreach contract or other electioneering rules.
- Inform candidates who our outreach partners are and provide contact information.
- Share the City's list of approved translation and interpreter contractors with campaigns.
- Consider improvements to candidate introductions by including a photo, lengthening the introduction, and producing an audio recording of the translated statements.
- Create an online calendar for our CBOs to post events on and share this with campaigns.

Clarify Legal Permanent Resident Eligibility

For Discussion

Program staff plan to create marketing materials regarding this topic with feedback from our partners as well as seek out statements of endorsement from local leaders and organizations. Do the commissioners have additional thoughts on this topic?