

SEEC Emergency Rule Regarding Replacement Democracy Vouchers

Whereas, because of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Washington State Governor has issued Proclamations mandating social distancing; and

Whereas, campaigns for the August 2021 primary election are already well underway, with some campaigns having already collected more than \$100,000 in vouchers; and

Whereas, while the vaccine rollout is gathering momentum, restrictions on person-to-person contact remain in place; and

Whereas, for the Voucher program to remain a viable option for campaigns, it is critical that allowances be made for collecting vouchers electronically; and

Whereas, immediate action is necessary to facilitate the operation of the Voucher program, while ensuring the safety of campaign workers;

Now, therefore, pursuant to the authority of SMC 3.02.050, which allows emergency rulemaking, the SEEC adopts the following rule regarding replacement democracy vouchers.

During the remaining time period that the Washington State Governor's Proclamations mandating social distancing are in effect due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, such that person to person solicitation of Seattle voters is prohibited or not feasible, Democracy Voucher Campaign Replacement Forms may be posted to a campaign website, provided that the following conditions are observed:

1. The form must only be posted on the campaign's official website and not a third party contractor website.
2. Only the first signature line can be set as a required field. The remaining signature lines must be set as optional.
3. Printing the form must not be an option offered on the website.

For forms submitted to the Commission either electronically or on paper, the Commission will accept forms for processing only if:

4. Submissions contain current and complete information.
5. The campaign has submitted to the Commission the name of the representative who accepted the individual form.

This Rule shall no longer be in effect 48 hours subsequent to the Governor rescinding any proclamations or other authority mandating social distancing, such that person to person solicitation of Seattle voters is allowed or feasible, as determined by the SEEC Executive Director. Upon making that determination, the Executive Director shall immediately provide notice to any affected campaigns.