

2021 Election Report
May 2022



Polly Grow, Strategic Advisor, Campaign Finance

Bob DeWeese, IT Professional

Cliff Duggan, Administrative Specialist

About the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission

The Commission is a seven-member, citizen body that interprets, administers and enforces the Seattle Elections Code, Ethics Code, Election Pamphlet Code, Lobbying Code, and Whistleblower Protection Code. Three members are appointed by the Mayor, three are appointed by the City Council and the seventh is appointed by the other six. All seven are confirmed by the City Council. The term of office for a commissioner is three years.

2021 Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission Members

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Biennial Report of Election Financing

The 2021 election cycle began and ended under the cloud of COVID-19. Discerning trends would be difficult in this environment. This information is presented according to the Commission's statutory obligation. Readers are advised to be cautious in drawing lessons from the 2021 elections.

Summary of 2021 Contributions

| Candidates | Total Contributions | Candidate | Misc | Individuals & Groups | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| | | | | Voucher Proceeds | Monetary | No. | Average |
| Mayor | | | | | | | |
| Clinton Bliss | \$2,462 | \$2,462 | | | | - | |
| James Donaldson | \$19,637 | \$2,171 | \$25 | | \$15,043 | 144 | \$104.47 |
| Jenny Durkan* (I) | \$4,920 | | | | \$4,920 | 22 | \$223.64 |
| Colleen Echohawk | \$486,652 | | \$405 | \$312,575 | \$173,672 | 5,961 | \$81.57 |
| Jessyn Farrell | \$460,082 | | \$8,743 | \$293,800 | \$157,539 | 4,758 | \$94.86 |
| Lorena González | \$996,002 | \$350 | | \$642,350 | \$353,302 | 11,183 | \$89.03 |
| Bruce Harrell (E) | \$1,352,891 | \$19,250 | \$1,500 | \$525,400 | \$806,741 | 9,471 | \$140.65 |
| Rodney Holt (write-in) | \$412 | \$400 | | | \$12 | - | |
| Andrew Grant Houston | \$428,714 | \$131 | \$5 | \$346,225 | \$82,353 | 5,567 | \$76.99 |
| Arthur K. Langlie | \$144,720 | \$175 | \$2 | | \$144,543 | 488 | \$296.19 |
| Stan Lippmann | \$2,401 | \$2,401 | | | | - | |
| Kate Martin* | \$50 | | | | \$50 | 1 | \$50.00 |
| Lance Randall | \$75,125 | \$1,287 | | | \$73,838 | 775 | \$95.27 |
| Casey Sixkiller | \$97,578 | \$450 | | | \$97,128 | 542 | \$179.20 |
| All Mayor | \$4,071,646 | \$29,077 | \$10,680 | \$2,120,350 | \$1,909,141 | 38,912 | \$103.55 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| City Attorney | | | | | | | |
| Ann Davison (E) | \$446,712 | \$347 | | \$196,750 | \$249,615 | 3,939 | \$113.32 |
| Steve Fortney* | \$130,605 | \$130,470 | | \$0 | \$135 | 26 | \$5.19 |
| Pete Holmes (I) | \$184,926 | \$6,400 | | \$105,125 | \$73,401 | 2,421 | \$73.74 |
| Nicole S. Thomas-Kennedy | \$438,885 | \$10 | \$1 | \$337,375 | \$101,499 | 5,288 | \$82.99 |
| All City Attorney | \$1,201,128 | \$137,227 | \$1 | \$639,250 | \$424,650 | 11,674 | \$91.13 |

| Candidates | Total Contributions | Candidate | Misc | Individuals & Groups | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|
| | | | | Voucher Proceeds | Monetary | No. | Average |
| Council Position 8 | | | | | | | |
| Brian Fahey | \$2,203 | \$2,203 | | | | - | |
| Jordan Elizabeth Fisher | \$3,376 | \$3,376 | | | | - | |
| Paul Glumaz | \$11,657 | \$402 | | | \$11,255 | 385 | \$29.23 |
| Jesse James | \$1,392 | \$1,082 | | | \$310 | 7 | \$44.29 |
| Kate Martin | \$26,171 | \$685 | \$1,236 | | \$24,250 | 476 | \$50.95 |
| Teresa Mosqueda (I, E) | \$348,278 | \$321 | \$106 | \$268,200 | \$79,651 | 6,249 | \$55.67 |
| Kenneth Wilson | \$101,577 | \$5,694 | | | \$95,883 | 526 | \$182.29 |
| All City Council Pos. 8 | \$494,654 | \$13,763 | \$1,342 | \$268,200 | \$211,349 | 7,643 | \$62.74 |

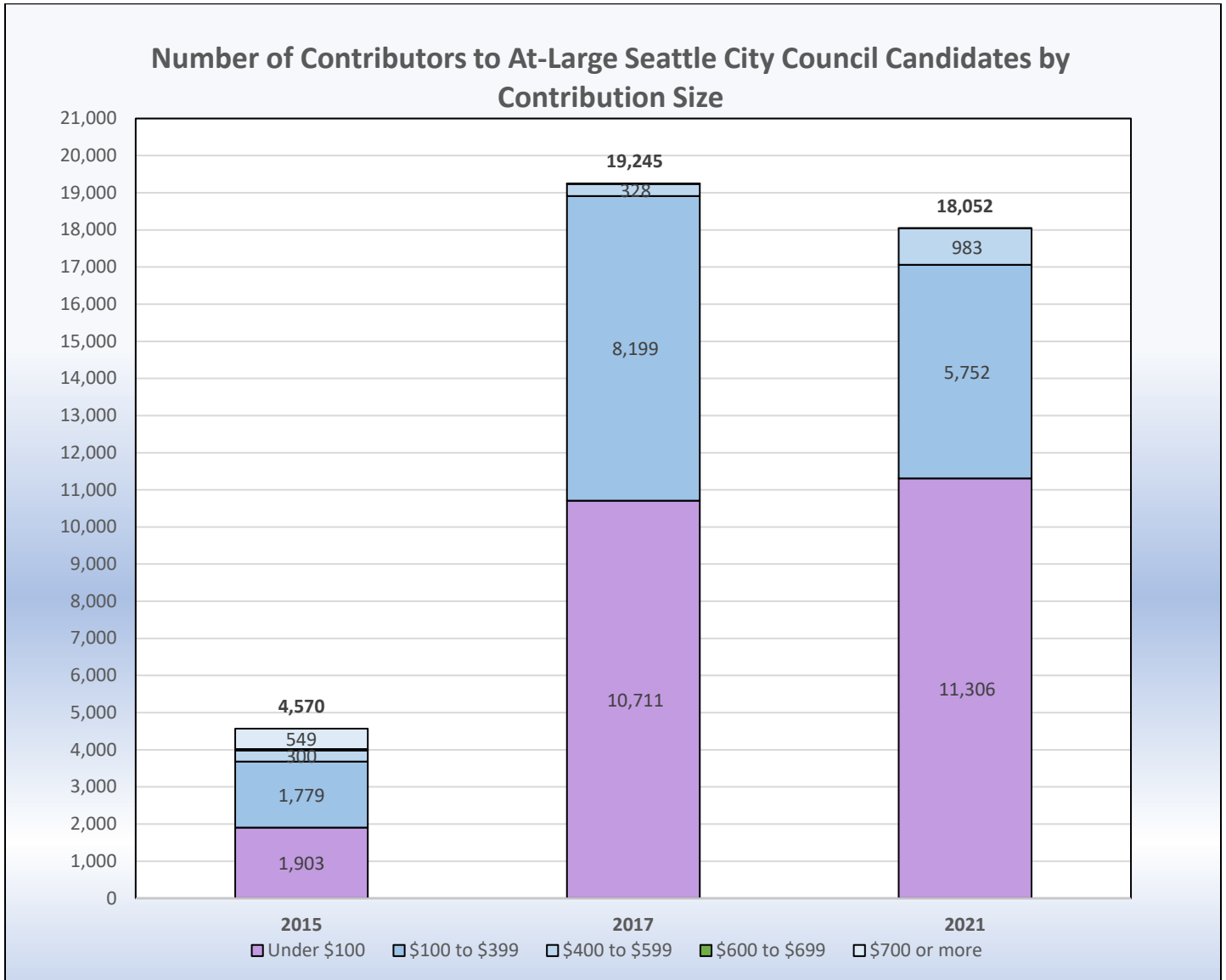
| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Council Position 9 | | | | | | | |
| Corey Eichner | \$10,495 | \$695 | \$300 | | \$9,500 | 82 | \$115.85 |
| Claire Grant* | \$1,191 | \$191 | | | \$1,000 | 34 | \$29.41 |
| Lorena González*(I) | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Xtian Gunther | \$3,164 | \$3,164 | | | | - | |
| Lindsay McHaffie | \$1,297 | \$1,297 | | | | - | |
| Sara Nelson (E) | \$593,570 | \$9,825 | \$7 | | \$583,738 | 2,213 | \$263.78 |
| Nikkita Oliver | \$436,506 | \$110 | \$9 | \$288,150 | \$109,415 | 5,888 | \$67.52 |
| Brianna Thomas | \$163,788 | \$550 | | \$79,125 | \$84,113 | 2,185 | \$74.71 |
| All City Council Pos. 9 | \$1,210,011 | \$15,832 | \$316 | \$367,275 | \$787,766 | 10,402 | \$111.04 |

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| All Council Committees | \$1,704,665 | \$29,595 | \$1,658 | \$635,475 | \$999,115 | 18,045 | \$90.58 |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|

*Indicates candidate withdrew before filing a Declaration of Candidacy. Candidates in **bold** were on the General Election ballot. Only candidates who raised money are listed.

City Council Contests

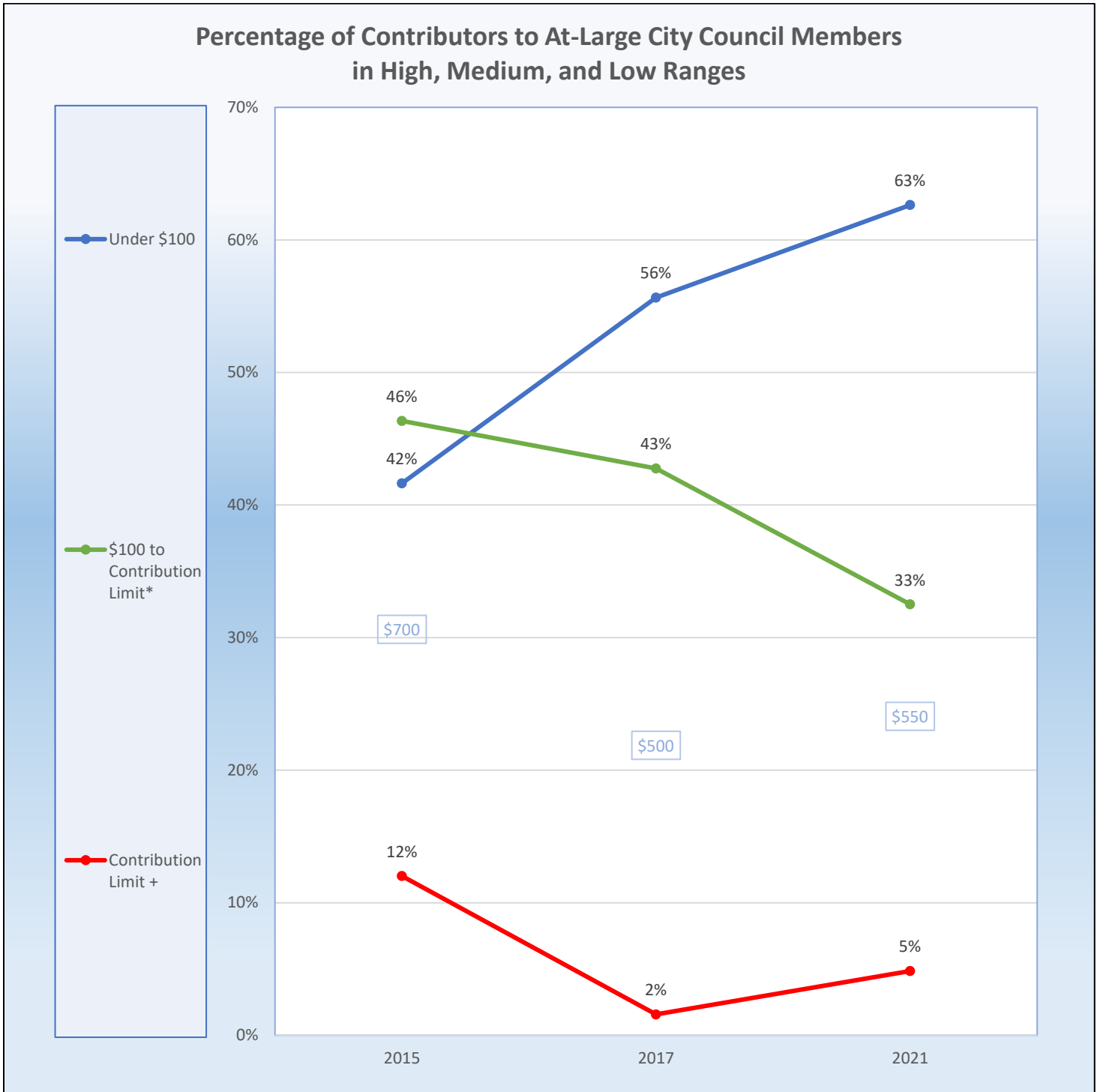
Number of Contributors by Contribution Size



Does not include candidate or anonymous contributions, transfers from prior campaign, or miscellaneous transactions

Small contributors continued to dominate City Council elections. Two of the four General Election candidates for City Council participated in the Democracy Voucher program in 2021.

Percentage of Contributors to City Council Contributing in High, Medium and Low Ranges

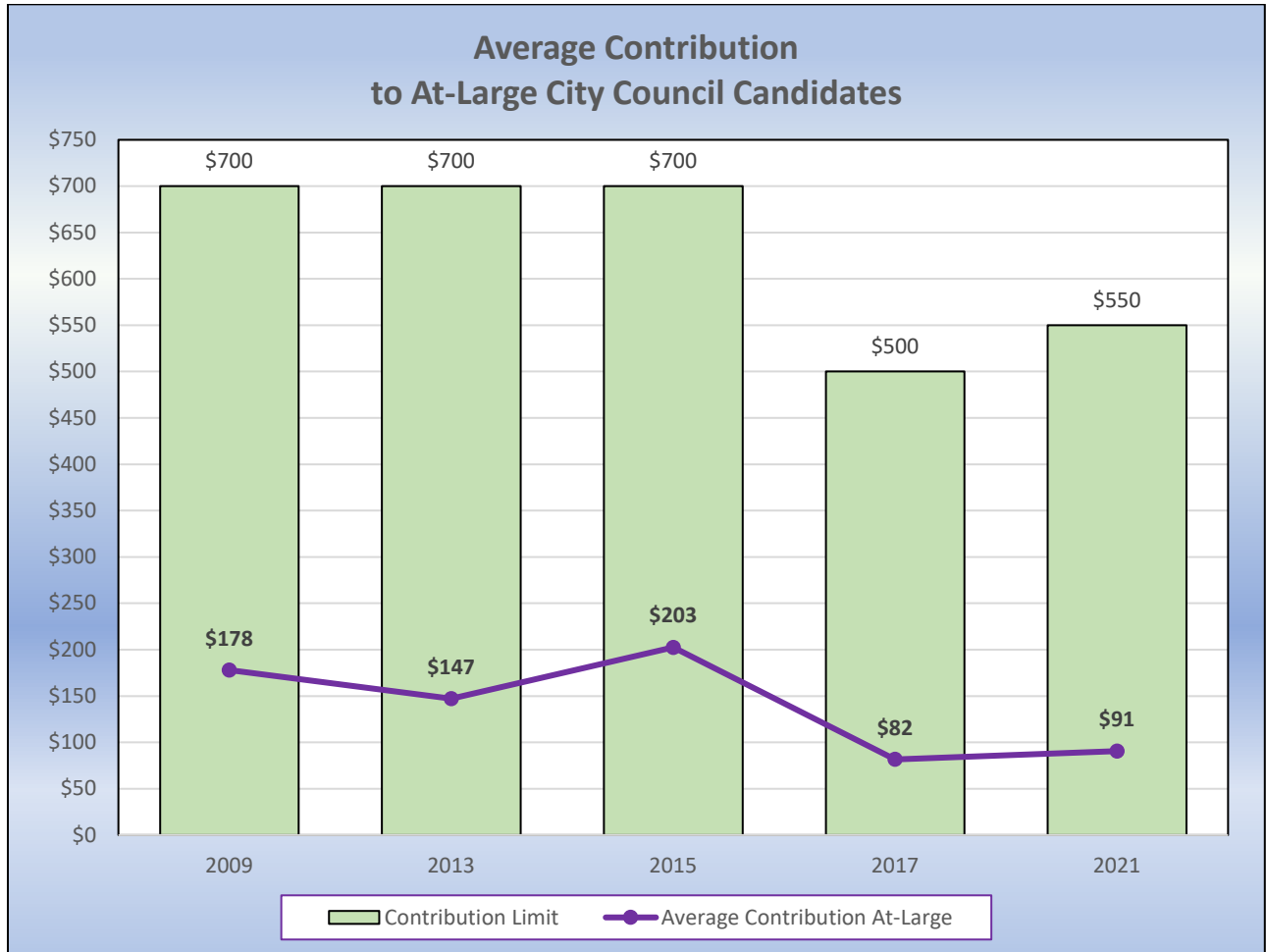


* The contribution limit in 2021 was \$550. The chart shows contributions of up to \$500, and \$500 and up.

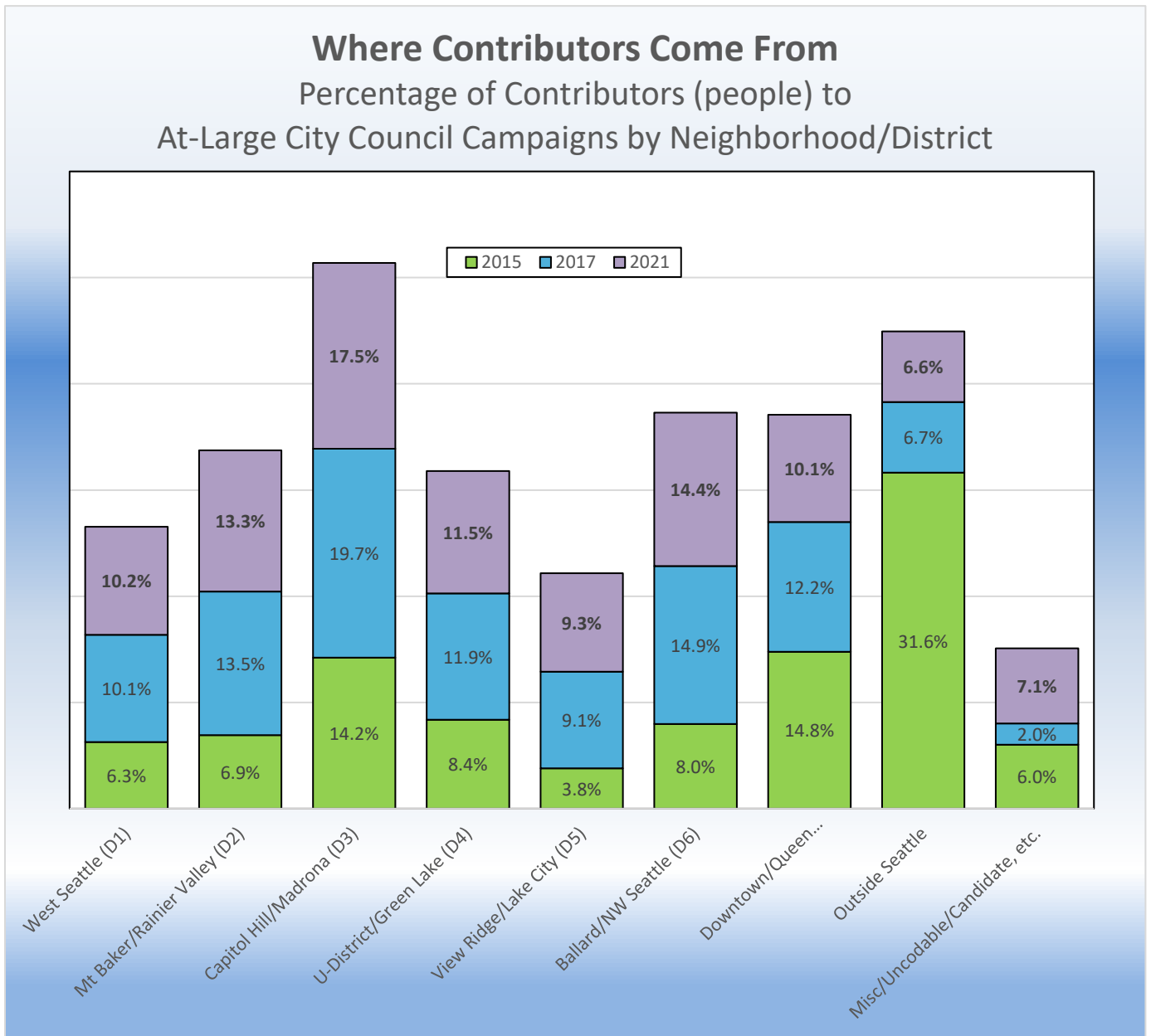
In 2021, the percentage of contributors at the Low range (under \$100) continued its upward trajectory. Eighty-eight percent of contributors to at-large City Council members contributed less than \$200. In 2017, five candidates qualified for the Democracy Voucher Program and four made it to the General election. In 2021, only three qualified and only two made it to the General Election. Two candidates in the General opted not to participate in the program.

Average Contributions

Despite an increase in the contribution limit for the 2021 election, average contributions stabilized at less than half of what they were in 2015.



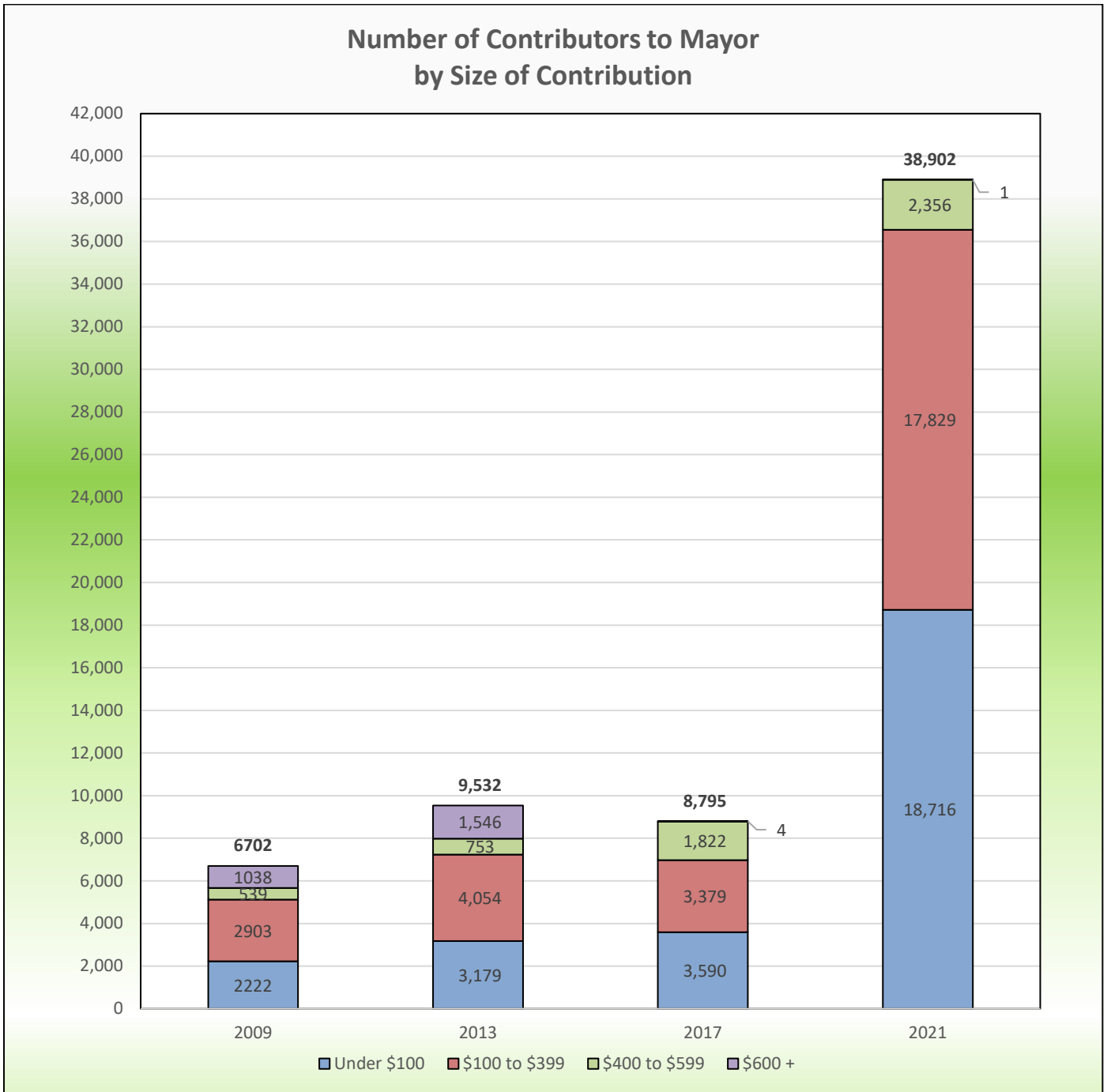
Geographic Distribution of Contributors



This chart shows increased participation from across the City in City election contests as well as the declining role of contributions from outside the City. Since the advent of Voucher program, contributions from beyond Seattle have accounted for less than any individual district.

The Mayor's Race

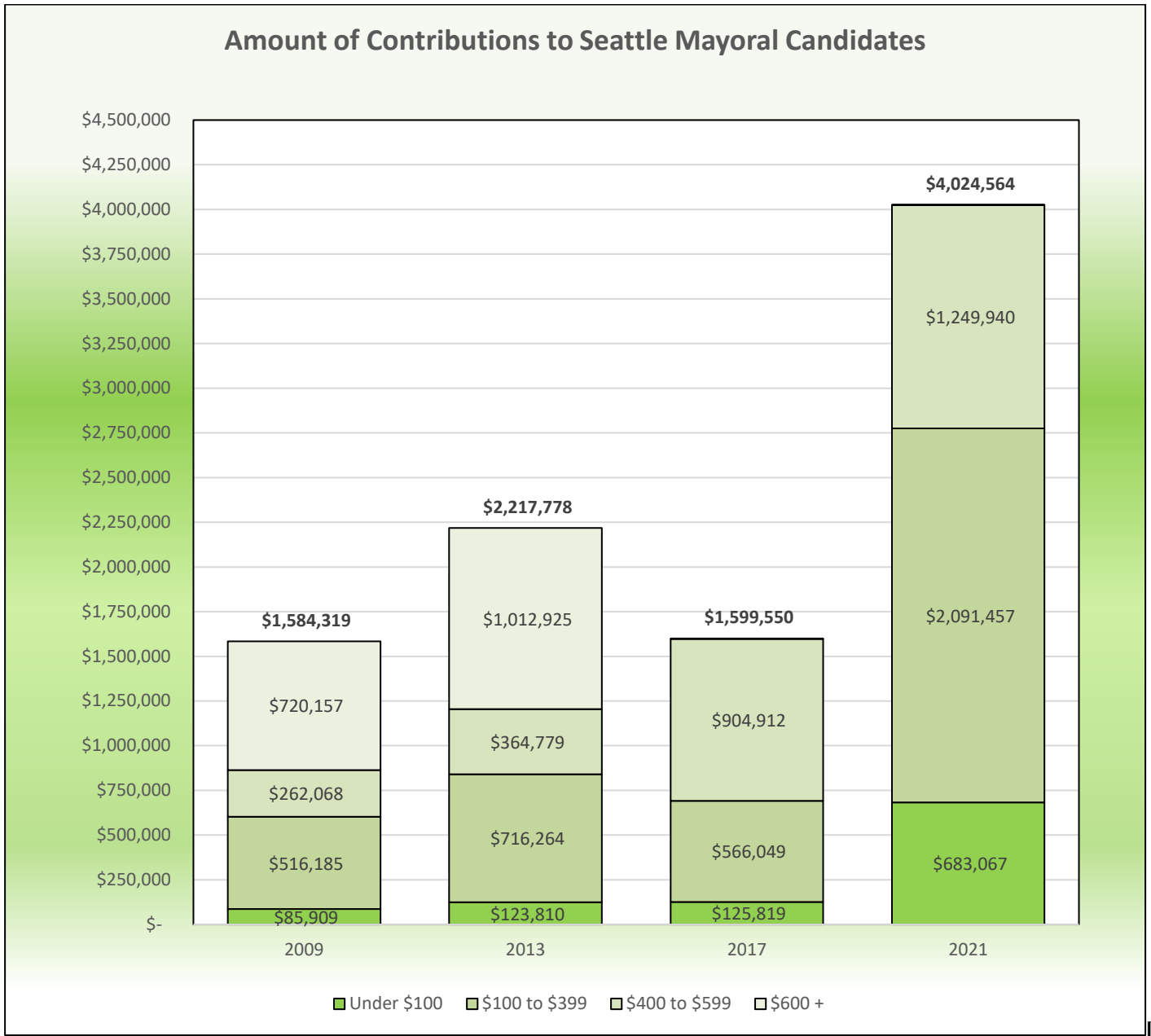
Number of Contributors by Size



**Does not include candidate or anonymous contributions, or miscellaneous transactions*

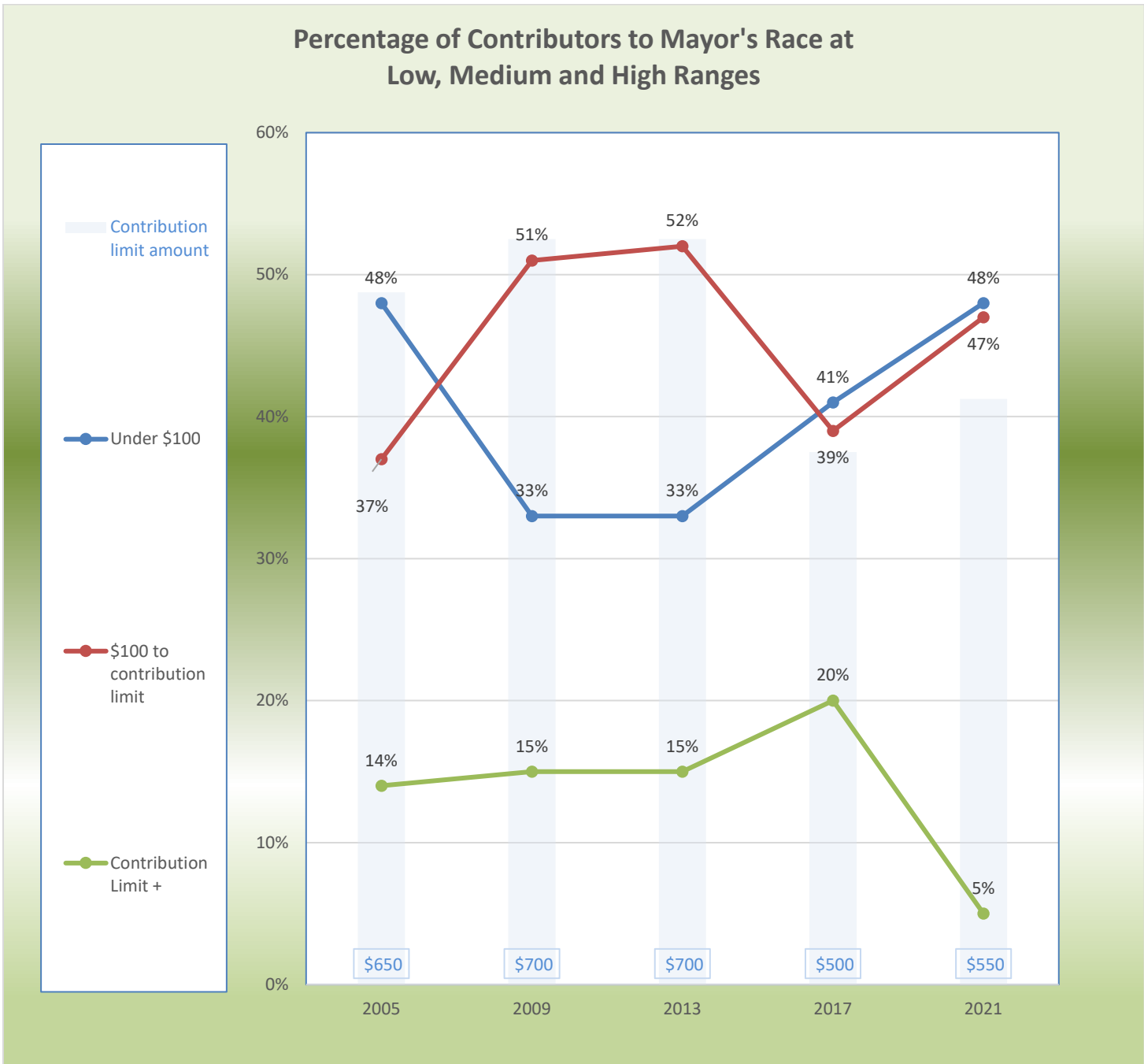
In 2021, candidates running for mayor were able to participate in the Democracy Voucher Program for the first time. There was an exponential increase in the number of contributors to those races. Notably, 94 percent of contributors made contributions of less than \$400, and almost 50 percent gave less than \$100.

Contributions by Size



While contribution amounts at all levels increased in 2021 compared to 2017, compared to all prior years, the most significant increases occurred at the lowest two ranges.

Percentage of Contributors to Mayoral Races Contributing in High, Medium and Low Ranges

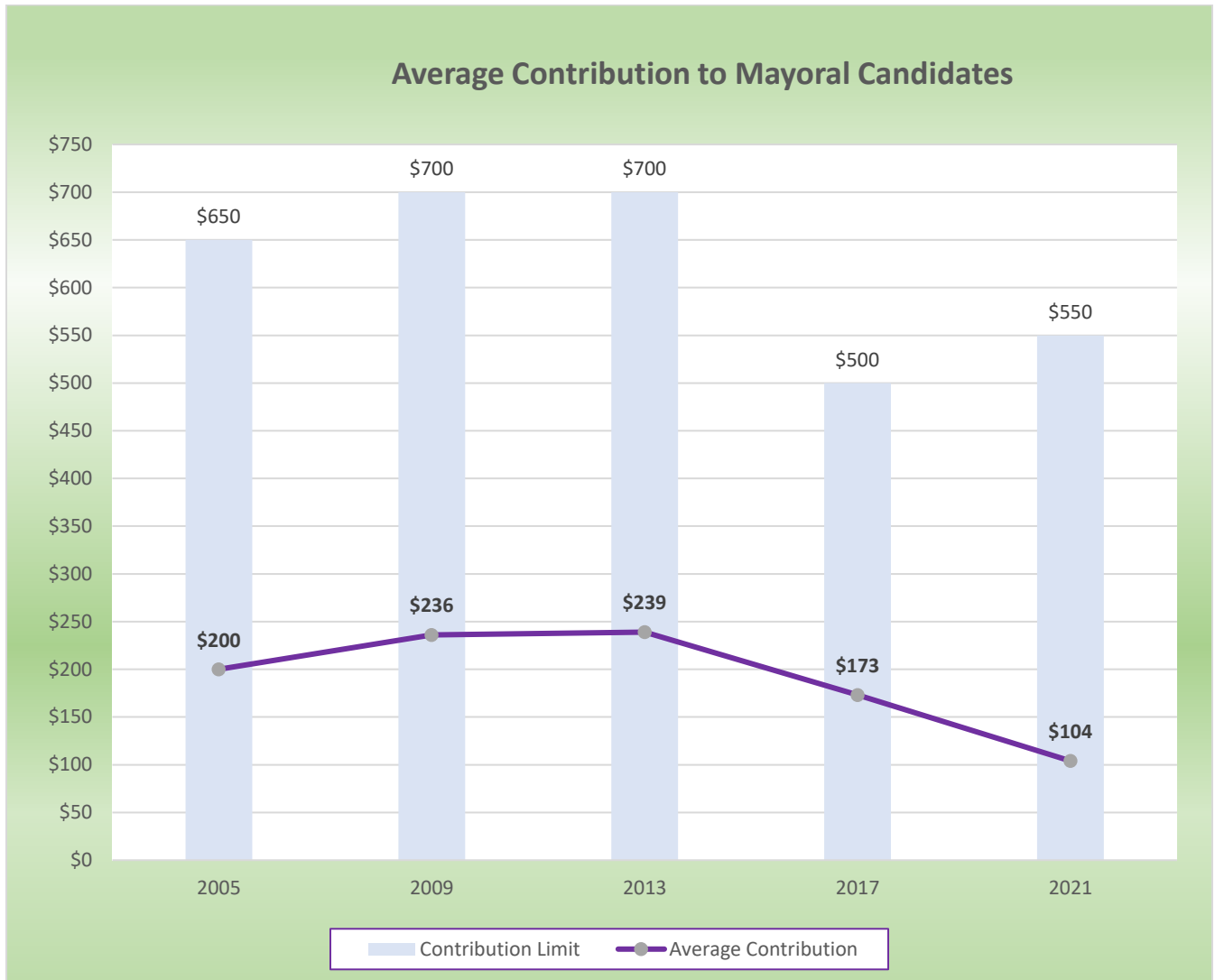


* The data does not break out amount increments less than \$100. Therefore the 2005 and 2021 figures include amounts rounded down to the nearest \$100, \$600 and \$500 respectively.

In 2021, candidates running for Mayor had the option of participating in the Democracy Voucher Program for the first time. As we've seen in past elections where the DVP was introduced, contributions at the low range increased, and contributions at the high range decreased.

The Chart shows that 95 percent of contributors contributed less than \$500, and 90 percent of contributors to mayoral candidates contributed less than \$200.

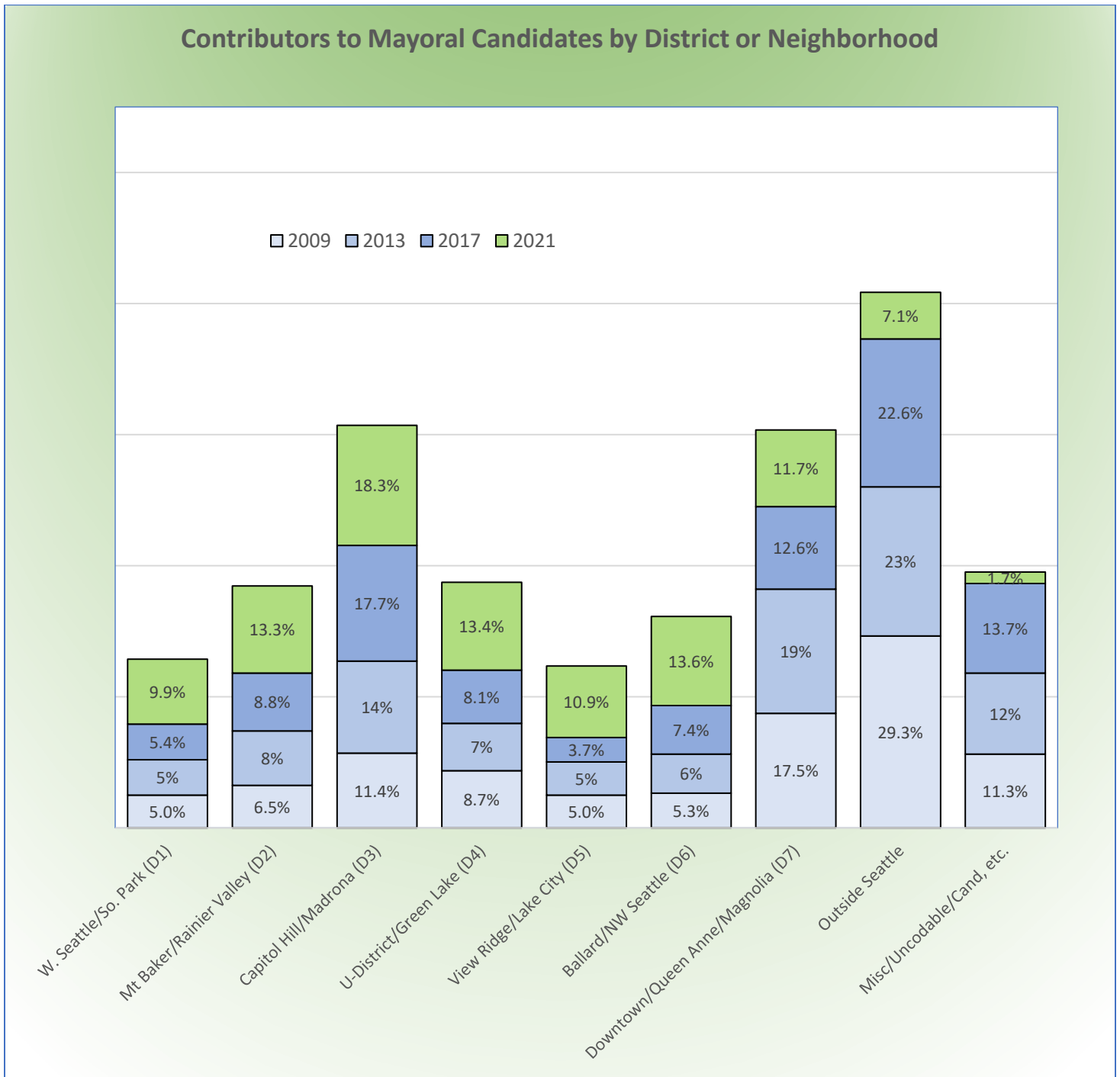
Average Contributions



The average contribution to mayoral candidates dropped 40 percent from \$173 in 2017 to \$104 in 2021, even with an increase in the contribution limit. This likely reflects the impact of Vouchers in the Mayor's race.

Geographic Distribution of Contributors

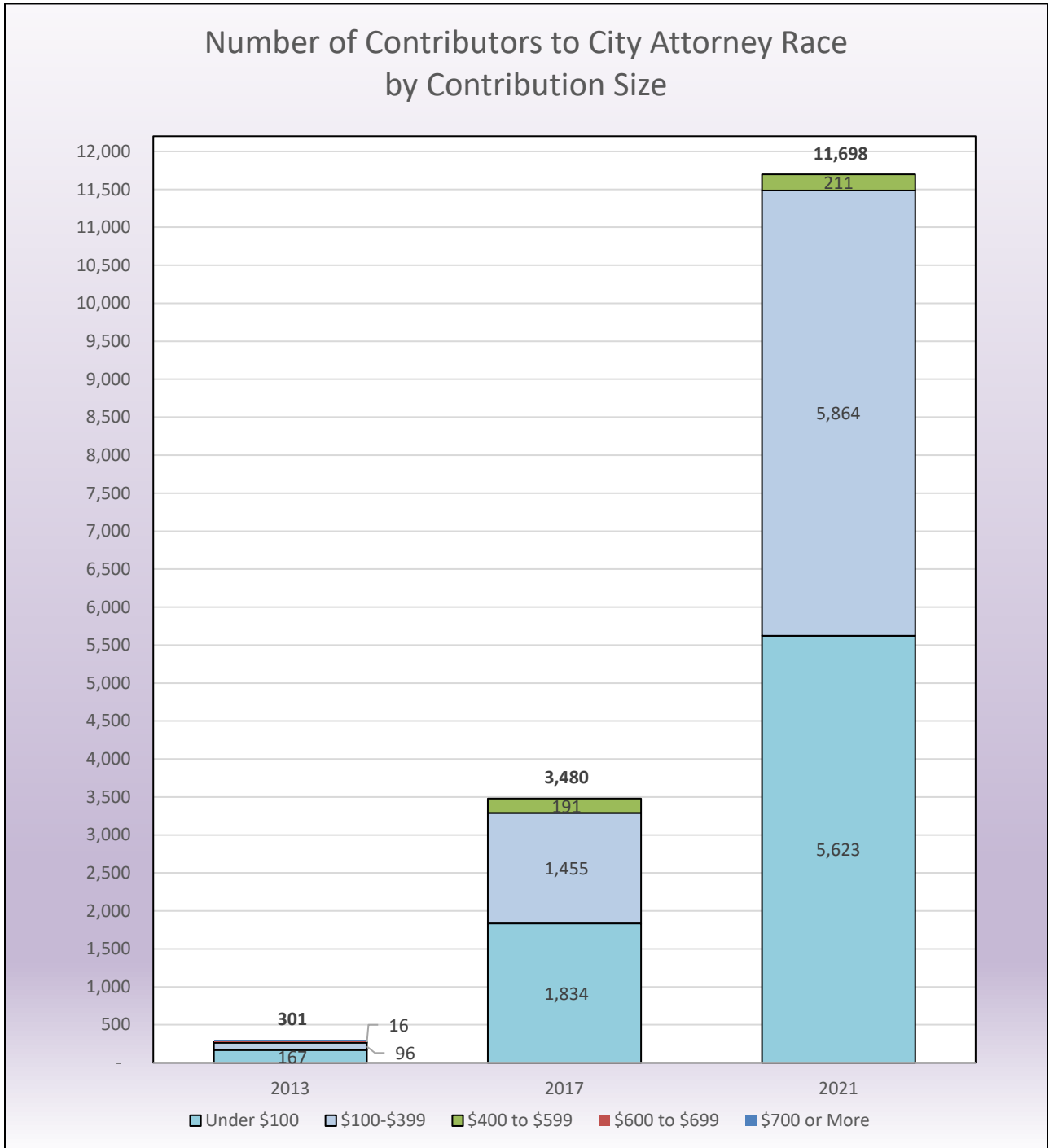
Where Contributors Come From



The contributors to mayoral campaigns were relatively evenly spread across the City in 2021. This year, for the first time, all districts showed at least a 10 percent participation rate (when rounded up). And the number of contributors from outside Seattle fell precipitously from 22.6 percent to just 7.1 percent, lower than any of the seven districts.

The City Attorney's Race

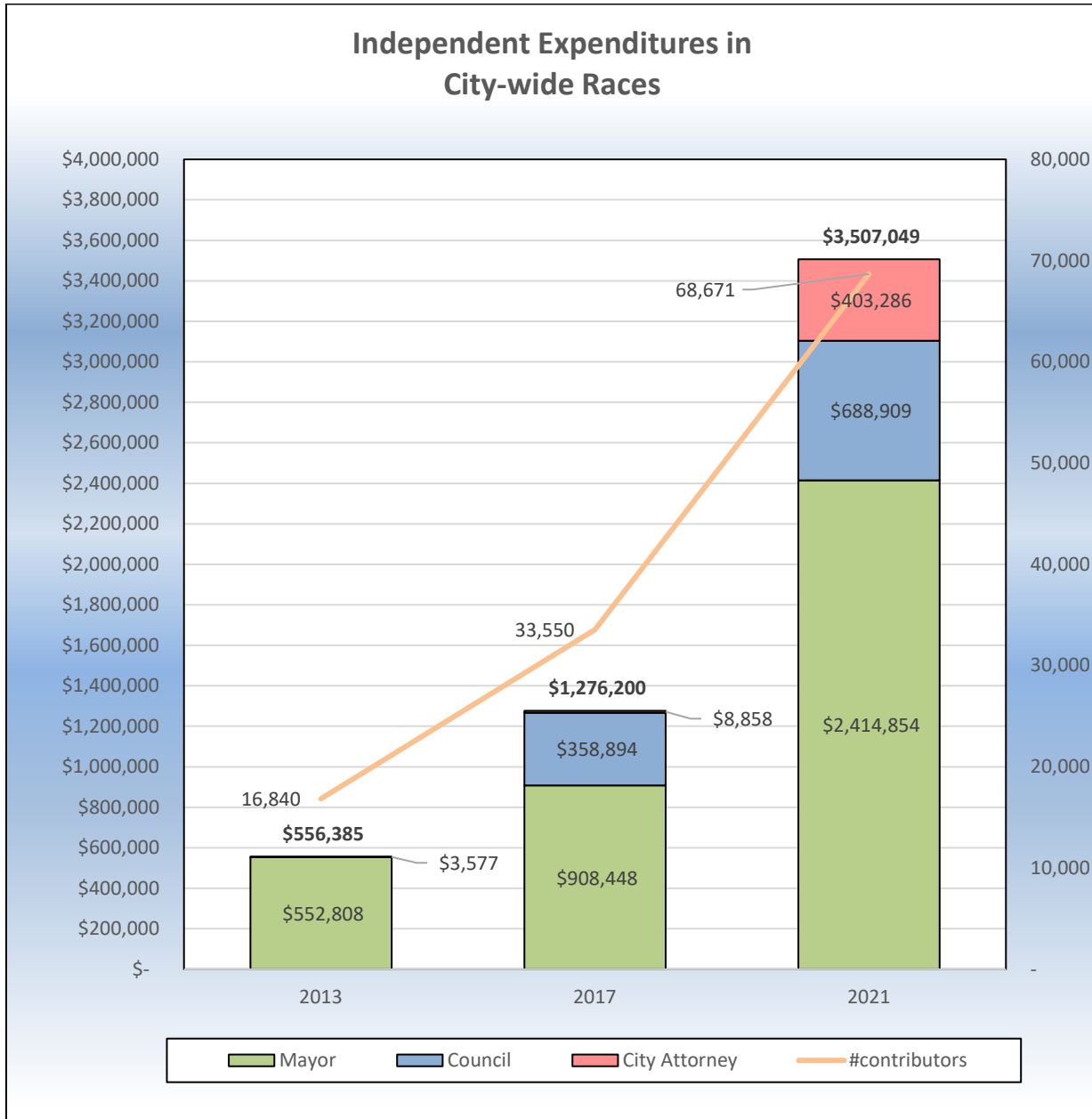
Number of Contributors by Contribution Size



For the first time in this young century, Seattle had a close City Attorney's race. The number of contributors to candidates for City Attorney almost quadrupled.

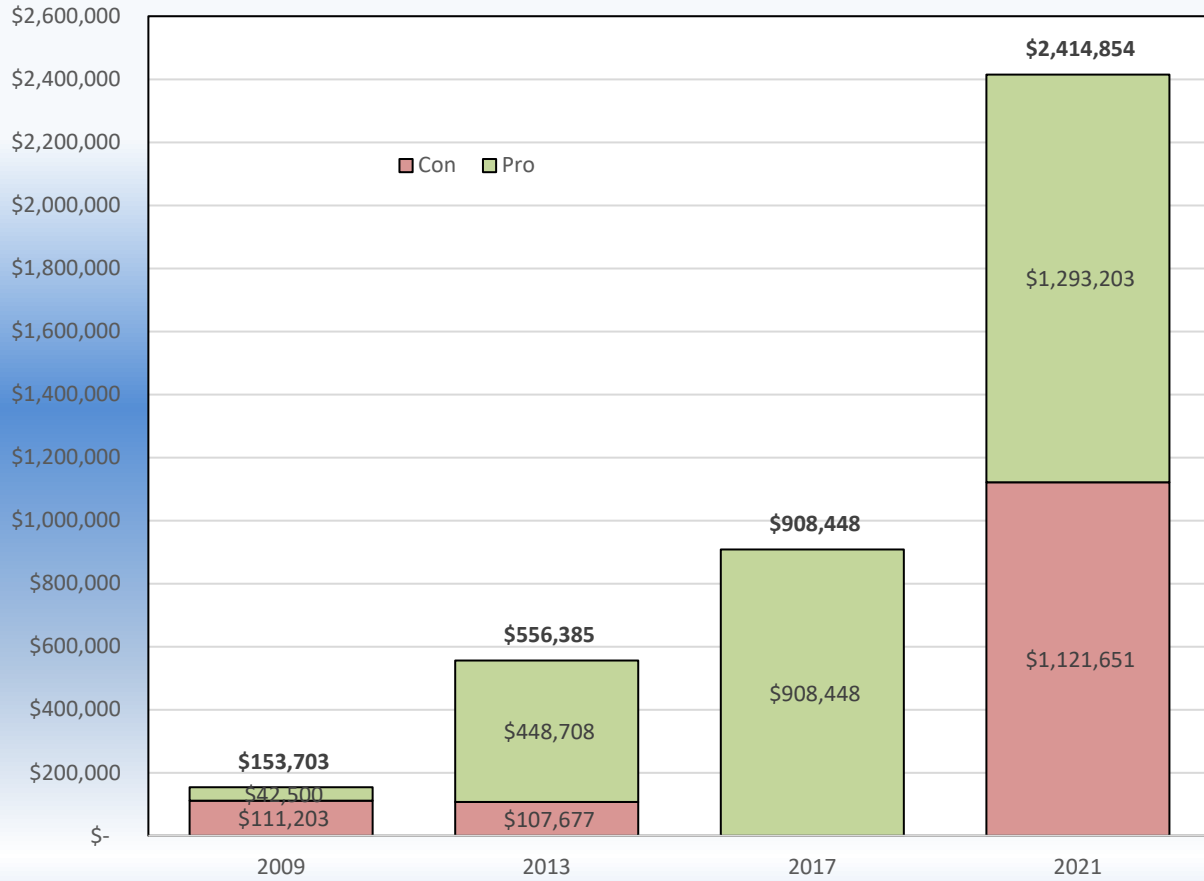
Independent Expenditures

Independent Expenditures in City-wide Races



The cost of Seattle elections continues to skyrocket. Independent spending almost tripled in the last four years, with almost a quarter of a million dollars spent on the mayor’s race alone. Interestingly, the rise of independent spending closely follows the rise in the number of contributors to City races.

Total Independent Expenditures in Mayoral Campaigns Pro/Con



Independent expenditures were higher in 2021 than ever before. For the first time, more than a million dollars was spent opposing mayoral candidates.

2021 Vote Returns

Primary Election Vote Returns - August 3, 2021

| Registered Voters | Ballots Cast | Turnout |
|-------------------|--------------|---------|
| 493,453 | 206,814 | 41.91% |

| City of Seattle Mayor | Ballots Tallied | Turnout |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | 204,764 | 41.50% |
| Andrew Grant Houston | 5,485 | 2.68% |
| Lance Randall | 2,804 | 1.37% |
| M. Lorena González | 65,750 | 32.11% |
| Casey Sixkiller | 6,918 | 3.38% |
| Clinton Bliss | 1,618 | 0.79% |
| Henry C. Dennison | 347 | 0.17% |
| Bobby Tucker | 377 | 0.18% |
| Omari Tahir-Garrett | 391 | 0.19% |
| James Donaldson | 3,219 | 1.57% |
| Arthur K. Langlie | 11,372 | 5.55% |
| Colleen Echohawk | 21,042 | 10.28% |
| Don L. Rivers | 189 | 0.09% |
| Bruce Harrell | 69,612 | 34.00% |
| Stan Lippman | 323 | 0.16% |
| Jessyn Farrell | 14,931 | 7.29% |
| Write-in | 386 | 0.19% |

| City of Seattle City Attorney | Ballots Tallied | Turnout |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | 196,139 | 39.75% |
| Ann Davison | 64,179 | 32.72% |
| Nicole Thomas-Kennedy | 71,367 | 36.39% |
| Pete Holmes | 60,093 | 30.64% |
| Write-in | 500 | 0.25% |

| City of Seattle Council Position No. 8 | Ballots Tallied | Turnout |
|--|-----------------|---------------|
| | 190,410 | 38.59% |
| George Freeman | 1,575 | 0.83% |
| Alexander White | 2,474 | 1.30% |
| Jordan Elizabeth Fisher | 1,810 | 0.95% |
| Bobby Lindsey Miller | 2,438 | 1.28% |
| Brian Fahey | 887 | 0.47% |
| Jesse James | 2,051 | 1.08% |
| Kenneth Wilson | 30,862 | 16.21% |
| Paul Felipe Glumaz | 10,228 | 5.37% |
| Alex Tsimerman | 961 | 0.50% |
| Teresa Mosqueda | 113,052 | 59.37% |
| Kate Martin | 21,997 | 11.55% |
| Write-in | 2,075 | 1.09% |

| City of Seattle Council Position No. 9 | Ballots Tallied | Turnout |
|--|-----------------|---------------|
| | 198,608 | 40.25% |
| Brianna K. Thomas | 26,651 | 13.42% |
| Lindsay McHaffie | 3,048 | 1.53% |
| Rebecca L. Williamson | 1,646 | 0.83% |
| Nikkita Oliver | 79,799 | 40.18% |
| Xtian Gunther | 1,409 | 0.71% |
| Sara Nelson | 78,388 | 39.47% |
| Corey Eichner | 7,030 | 3.54% |
| Write-in | 637 | 0.32% |

Source: King County Official Final Election Results, updated 8/17/2021

General Election Vote Returns -November 2, 2021

| Registered Voters | Ballots Cast | Turnout |
|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 489,996 | 267,414 | 54.57% |

| Mayor | Ballots Tallied | Turnout |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| | 265,203 | 54.12% |
| Bruce Harrell | 155,294 | 58.56% |
| M. Lorena González | 109,132 | 41.15% |
| Write-in | 777 | 0.29% |

| City Attorney | Ballots Tallied | Turnout |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| | 257,589 | 52.57% |
| Nicole Thomas-Kennedy | 122,947 | 47.73% |
| Ann Davison | 132,638 | 51.49% |
| Write-in | 2,004 | 0.78% |

| Council Position No. 8 | Ballots Tallied | Turnout |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| | 251,831 | 51.39% |
| Teresa Mosqueda | 149,589 | 59.40% |
| Kenneth Wilson | 101,168 | 40.17% |
| Write-in | 1,074 | 0.43% |

| Council Position No. 9 | Ballots Tallied | Turnout |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| | 258,798 | 52.82% |
| Nikkita Oliver | 119,025 | 45.99% |
| Sara Nelson | 139,336 | 53.84% |
| Write-in | 437 | 0.17% |

Source: King County Official Final Election Results, updated 11/22/2021