

Respondent Names
King County Elections
Complainant Name
Stefan Sharkansky
Complaint Description
<p>Stefan Sharkansky reported via the portal (<i>Mon, 15 Mar 2021 at 10:54 PM</i>)</p> <p>I allege that King County Elections, through its "Voter Education Fund", engaged in a pattern of violations of RCW 42.17A.555, providing a total of roughly \$300,000 in public funds along with considerable staff time, which supported express advocacy for or against various ballot measures between 2018 and 2020.</p> <p>KCE PDC Complaint 2021-03-15.pdf 8.39 MB</p>
What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?
King County Elections has diverted funds appropriated for election administration to be instead granted to political activists.
List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found
See attached file with multiple exhibits
List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them
Certification (Complainant)
I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Stefan Sharkansky
15600 NE 8th St, Ste B-1
PMB 101
Bellevue, WA 98008
March 15, 2021

Public Disclosure Commission
711 Capitol Way S. #206
PO Box 40908
Olympia, WA 98504-0908

Dear Public Disclosure Commission:

I allege that King County Elections (“KCE”) engaged in a pattern of violations of RCW 42.17A.555, providing a total of roughly \$300,000 in public funds along with considerable staff time, which supported express advocacy for or against various ballot measures between 2018 and 2020.

Background

In 2017 KCE established the Voter Education Fund (“VEF”) in partnership with the Seattle Foundation, a private 501(c)(3) organization. The VEF, which is jointly and equally funded by KCE and the Seattle Foundation, has distributed grants to several 501(c)(3) organizations for the stated purpose of “provid[ing] nonpartisan voter outreach in historically underrepresented communities”. The specific activities the VEF offered to fund are [Exhibit A]:

- Voter education or outreach informing underrepresented voters about how voting works in King County, such as who is eligible to vote, what is vote-by-mail, and democracy 101.
- Voter registration activities where underrepresented communities work, play or connect.
- Nonpartisan opportunities for communities to come together and educate themselves about what’s on the ballot.
- Culturally appropriate technical assistance in navigating the voting process, such as helping voters change their address or language preference.

The VEF disbursed a total of \$1,410,000 in grants to multiple organizations to perform these activities during 2018, 2019 and 2020¹. KCE also provided the grantees a considerable amount of training and

¹ In 2018 the VEF granted \$460,000 for use that year. In 2019 the VEF granted \$950,000 to be disbursed in two annual installments in 2019 and 2020. King County financial records show that King County awarded a \$705,000 sole-source contract to the Seattle Foundation for the Voter Education Fund effective May 2018, and that the entire amount has been paid (Contract #CPA 6010777). Seattle

staff support that it did not make available to non-grantees. The grantee activities the PDC should be most concerned with are the “Nonpartisan opportunities for communities to come together and educate themselves about what’s on the ballot”, along with what is variously referred to in VEF documents as voter “participation”, “engagement”, “education”, “outreach” and “get out the vote activities”. Many of the grantees contributed to ballot measure campaigns in 2018, 2019 and/or 2020 while benefiting from VEF grants². Many of the grantees engaged in express advocacy for or against ballot measures while benefiting from their VEF grants. I estimate the total amount of King County public funds (not including the value of exclusive staff time) that were distributed to grantees engaged in express advocacy during those years was approximately \$300,000, or 43% of KCE’s total monetary contribution to the VEF in that period.

Most troubling is that the grantees who contributed or expressly advocated in ballot measure campaigns were, without exception, always on the same sides of every measure. The Seattle Foundation also contributed a total of \$250,000 to four different ballot measure campaigns in 2018, 2019 and 2020. During each of the campaigns in which the Seattle Foundation was active, every VEF grantee which was active in that campaign contributed and/or advocated on the same side of the measure as the Seattle Foundation. For example, in 2018 the Seattle Foundation contributed \$100,000 to the Yes on I-1631 campaign. Eight of the organizations which received VEF grants in 2018 advocated for and/or contributed to the Yes on I-1631 campaign. No grantee advocated for or contributed to the No on I-1631 campaign. The same pattern appeared with the three other ballot measure campaigns the Seattle Foundation contributed to. In every case I found where a VEF grantee expressly supported a ballot measure campaign, it was on the side overwhelmingly supported by other progressive and Democratic groups, and overwhelmingly opposed by conservative and Republican groups. [Exhibit C summarizes the VEF grantees’ contributions and express advocacy in the previous three years].

KCE officials might purport that the VEF’s goal is simply to enable the grantees to register voters, explain the mechanics of voting, help their communities “learn about what’s on the ballot” without advocating for any side, and deliver neutral encouragements to “Go vote”. But many of the grantees make clear that their motivation for “getting out the vote” is to produce electoral wins for particular policy outcomes. Many of the grantees stated in their VEF grant applications that the “specific strategies” they intended to use in “voter education activities” included a combination of social media, other digital and print media, door-knocking, ballot parties and/or phone banking. It defies credulity to believe that an organization committed to mobilize its community to achieve specific policy objectives would conduct a sophisticated multi-pronged get-out-the-vote campaign to simply encourage people to vote without recommending specific ballot choices. Indeed, many grantees have propagated express advocacy in their social media accounts, organizational websites and other digital media. [Dozens of examples are

Foundation public tax filings indicate that it was the sole entity which disbursed grant awards directly to the grantees.

² Grantee campaign contributions, as reported to the PDC, are summarized in Exhibit C.

included in Exhibit D]. It is inconceivable that KCE's politically savvy officials have been unaware of the grantees' outspoken commitments to advance their respective policy agendas, their track records of express advocacy, and their advocacy messaging after receiving VEF grants.

Multiple grantees were advocating on the same sides of multiple measures with no apparent instructions from KCE to prohibit this practice and with no balance and equal treatment for the other sides. This clearly indicates that King County Elections violated RCW 42.17A.555 and PDC rules prohibiting the use of public facilities in campaigns. The closest comparable situation I find in the PDC's archive is covered by Interpretation No. 91-03, "Library Display of Campaign Materials". This Interpretation states that:

Any [public] library which chooses to display campaign material must provide equal opportunity to both proponents and opponents of any ballot measure or to all candidates. Preferential treatment may not be provided to one side over another or to one candidate or political group. If supporters of one side of an issue or candidate ask that material be displayed, library employees must make a good faith effort to obtain material from opposing or competing groups and make those materials available in library facilities.

KCE's funding of express advocacy groups through the VEF is analogous to a library paying private organizations to disseminate political materials outside the library; where these organizations had well-known track records of express advocacy and all expounded similar political views, and where there was no reasonable effort to provide information from opposing groups. KCE's actions are even more egregious of a violation than the hypothetical library's would be. The Interpretation acknowledges that "It is a normal and regular function of a public library to obtain and provide public access to ... information regarding election campaigns." KCE cannot hide behind the RCW 42.17A.555(4) "normal and regular conduct" exemption. It is *not* normal and regular for county election officials in Washington to use agency resources to provide campaign information other than the strictly regulated Voters' Pamphlets which offer equal treatment to all campaigns on the ballot. KCE did not operate a voter education fund until the inception of the VEF in 2017. I am unable to find any other county in Washington whose Auditor operates a voter education fund similar to KCE's.

I stress that the grantee organizations are not subjects of this complaint. I have no reason to believe that any of them have done anything inappropriate. They were exercising their legal rights to engage in grassroots politics. I mention some of their statements and activities in the exhibits to this complaint only to illustrate that KCE acted unlawfully by subsidizing the grantees' activities while failing to provide for opposing views.

If the PDC were to countenance KCE's grants of public funds to express advocacy groups for the purposes of "voter education", it would blow a hole a mile wide in RCW 42.17A.555. It would create a safe harbor for public officials to use unlimited public dollars to support or oppose ballot measures. Any agency could create a "civic education fund" and award grants solely to activist organizations whose

political positions match the agency leadership's preferences. Even without explicit instructions that the grantee advocate for specific positions, the agency officials would know that their electoral preferences were being advanced with the help of tax dollars.

On March 1, 2021 KCE and the Seattle Foundation announced the renewal of the VEF for the 2021-2022 biennium, to award \$950,000 in grants, with 50% of this amount coming from King County public funds. The grant application window closes April 2, 2021, with recipients announced and funds disbursed during May 2021. The current year's RFP again offers to fund "Nonpartisan opportunities for communities to come together and learn about what's on the ballot", including "nonpartisan virtual gatherings or ballot parties" and "Get out the Vote activities". [Exhibit B] While the word "nonpartisan" does imply that VEF grants may not be used to expressly advocate for *candidates*, there is no language in the RFP that prohibits advocacy for *ballot measures*. Indeed, the grant recipients are 501(c)(3) organizations for whom candidate advocacy is prohibited and ballot measure advocacy is permitted under federal tax law. The invitation to "get out the vote" and "educate" the public about "what's on the ballot" without proscribing ballot measure advocacy can only be interpreted by the grantees as implicit permission to use their VEF grants to fund their usual work of ballot measure advocacy.

Given the imminent awarding of VEF grants, and the high likelihood that granted funds will again be used to support express advocacy, I urge the PDC to investigate these allegations on an expedited schedule so it can rule before grants are awarded. In the event that the timetable is too short for an investigation and resolution, I urge the PDC to issue or obtain an order to enjoin KCE from releasing grant funds until such time as the PDC can rule on this complaint.

Attached to this letter are a number of Exhibits, as follows:

- A. Announcements with background on VEF with lists of grantees in 2017, 2018 and 2019
- B. Announcement of VEF for 2021 with RFP and application form
- C. Summary of grantees and campaign involvement 2018, 2019, 2020
- D. Examples of grantee campaign advocacy

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stefan Sharkansky". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Stefan Sharkansky

EXHIBIT A



Source:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20191008204512/https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/elections/education-and-outreach/voter-education-fund.aspx>

Voter Education Fund

Improving voter access in underserved communities

A government, philanthropic and community partnership to remove barriers to voting in diverse communities.

What we fund

King County Elections and Seattle Foundation will award grants to community-based organizations that provide either an ongoing campaign or events focused on one or more of the following:

- Voter education or outreach informing underrepresented voters about how voting works in King County, such as who is eligible to vote, what is vote-by-mail, and democracy 101.
- Voter registration activities where underrepresented communities work, play or connect.
- Nonpartisan opportunities for communities to come together and educate themselves about what's on the ballot.
- Culturally appropriate technical assistance in navigating the voting process, such as helping voters change their address or language preference.



Purpose

The Voter Education Fund will provide grants to organizations that work to reduce inequities in voting access in historically marginalized communities including, but not limited to, communities of color, people experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, limited-English speaking communities, LGBTQ residents, formerly incarcerated individuals and residents in South King County.

We are prioritizing applications that:

- Are led and staffed by individuals reflecting the ethnic and cultural communities being served.
- Showcase a history or demonstrated ability to reach and engage members from the communities, especially as it relates to voting access.

Grant types


Organizations are funded at two levels: up to \$40,000 to develop a two-year campaign to engage voters or potential voters, or up to \$15,000 to provide a series of smaller activities through 2019 and 2020.

2019-2020 Grantees

- 21 Progress
- APACEvotes
- Asian Counseling and Referral Service
- Being Empowered Thru Supportive Transitions
- Byrd Barr Place
- Coalition of Immigrants, Refugees and Communities of Color (CIRCC)
- Disability Rights Washington
- El Centro de la Raza
- Entre Hermanos
- Eritrean Association in Greater Seattle
- Hearing, Speech & Deaf Center
- India Association of Western Washington
- Indigenous Showcase

- Ingersoll Gender Center
- Institute for Community Leadership
- InterIm CDA
- International Community Health Services
- Kent Black Action Commission (KBAC)
- Korean American Coalition—WA
- Latino Community Fund
- Living Well Kent
- Mother Africa
- Mujer al Volante
- Muslim Community & Neighborhood Association
- Na'ah Illahee Fund
- NAMI Eastside
- Para Los Niños
- Progress Pushers
- Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA)
- Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness
- SOAR
- Tenants Union of Washington State
- The Vera Project
- The Washington Bus Education Fund
- URBVOTE
- U.T.O.P.I.A. Seattle
- Villa Comunitaria
- Washington Community Action Network Education & Research Fund
- West Hill Community Association

Share information about this program

- [Voter Education Fund brochure](#) 

Questions

For questions or assistance please contact:

Giselle Zapata-Garcia

King County Elections

giselle.zapata-garcia@kingcounty.gov

206-263-0104

Jonathan Cunningham

Seattle Foundation

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206-515-2107



About King County Elections



About Seattle Foundation

Newsroom

King County
Elections

Voter Education Fund invests more than \$460,000 in 33 organizations to increase civic engagement and participation

May 2, 2018

Summary

The Voter Education Fund is a government, philanthropic and community partnership led by King County Elections and Seattle Foundation to remove barriers to voting in underserved and underrepresented communities. Through this partnership, 33 organizations are receiving grants totaling more than \$460,000 to increase voter engagement in underserved communities.

Story

The Voter Education Fund is investing in 33 community-based organizations to increase voter education and outreach. These organizations are serving communities of color, limited-English speaking communities, people with disabilities, low-income youth, veterans, people experiencing homelessness, people who have been convicted of a felony and other underserved communities.

Grantees reflect a wide variety of constituencies, with strong representation among organizations working to increase youth voting and civic participation, including Washington Bus, SOAR and the Institute for Community Learning. Washington State recently passed new legislation that allows 16 and 17-year-old residents to pre-register to vote in order to encourage participation, and will implement automatic voter registration that makes it easier to register. Both of those provisions go into effect in June 2019.

"With so much energy and momentum across the country and state by youth who want to engage in the political process, we are excited to see dynamic organizations working to increase the influence and voice of young people in our democracy," said Tony Mestres, President and CEO of Seattle Foundation.

This year 72 community-based organizations applied for two grant levels: one for up to \$20,000 to develop a 2018 campaign to engage voters or potential voters, or a second to provide up to \$10,000 for holding a series of smaller events. Of the 33 selected organizations, 22 are return grantees, reflecting a continuation of strong efforts and outreach.

"The Voter Education Fund is a critical and innovative way to help voters be civically connected," said Julie Wise, Director of King County Elections. "It's exciting that in only our third year we saw a record number of organizations applying. I think this speaks to the value of this program."

Following a pilot program in 2016, the Voter Education Fund successfully launched in 2017, awarding \$435,000 to 30 community-based organizations throughout King County. Grantees created voter engagement campaigns and hosted multiple events, including voter registration drives, ballot parties and well-attended candidate forums.

This year's fund will also emphasize voter outreach efforts to people who are experiencing homelessness as well as people who have been convicted of a felony. Grantees like Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness and B.E.S.T. (Being Empowered Thru Supportive Transitions) will focus their efforts on educating those groups with the goal of removing confusion around voter eligibility.

The full list of 2018 grantees is:

- APACEvotes
- Asian Counseling and Referral Service

- B.E.S.T.
- Blackout WA
- Coalition of Immigrants, Refugees and Communities of Color (CIRCC)
- Entre Hermanos
- Eritrean Association of Greater Seattle
- International Community Health Services
- Ingersoll Gender Center
- Institute for Community Learning
- InterIm CDA
- Korean American Coalition
- Latino Community Fund
- LGBTQ Allyship
- Longhouse Media
- Mother Africa
- NAMI Eastside

- Nsanga Corporation
- OneAmerica
- Open Doors for Multicultural Families
- Real Change
- ReWA
- Sea Mar Community Health Centers
- Seattle King County NAACP
- SOAR
- Somali Family Safety Task Force
- Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness
- Southwest Youth & Family Services
- South Park Information and Resource Center
- URBVOTE
- Washington Bus
- Washington Community Action Network
- West Hill Community Association

About Seattle Foundation

Seattle Foundation ignites powerful, rewarding philanthropy to make Greater Seattle a stronger, more vibrant community for all. Focused on creating equity and opportunity, our goal as a community foundation is to simplify giving and strengthen the impact of philanthropy for the more than 1,200 individuals, families, businesses and nonprofits we serve. We provide deep community insights, powerful civic leadership, effective philanthropic advising and judicious stewardship of assets in support of our mission. [Learn more about Seattle Foundation here.](#)

Relevant Links

- [Voter Education Fund](#)
- [Seattle Foundation](#)

Quotes



The Voter Education Fund is a critical and innovative way to help voters be civically connected. It's exciting that in only our third year we saw a record number of organizations applying. I think this speaks to the value of this program.

Julie Wise, Director of King County Elections

King County Elections and Seattle Foundation announce recipients of \$435,000 Voter Education Fund

June 7, 2017

Summary

The Voter Education Fund is a government, philanthropic and community partnership to remove barriers to voting in diverse communities. A total of 30 community-based organizations were selected to receive grants of up to \$22,000 to do voter engagement.

Story

King County Elections and Seattle Foundation today announce the recipients of \$435,000 in grants for voter engagement in communities that are historically underrepresented in the democratic process.

A total of 30 community-based organizations are receiving funding to offer basic education about voting in King County and technical assistance, such as helping voters complete a voter registration form.

"I'm thrilled with the diversity of organizations being funded this year and the exciting plans to support voting in their communities," said Julie Wise, Director of King County Elections. "We're committed to improving voting access, especially in what is an important local election year for King County."

The fund offered community-based organizations the opportunity to apply for up to \$25,000 to develop a 9-month campaign to engage voters or potential voters, and up to \$10,000 to provide a series of smaller events.

"Our democracy truly thrives when everyone participates, and participating through voting is one of our nation's highest values," said Tony Mestres, President and CEO of Seattle Foundation. "The recipients of these Voter Education Funds represent diverse communities and work to engage those communities in the most important part of being a citizen: using their voice."

Funded organizations represent a diverse range of historically underserved communities across King County. They include Longhouse Media, which produces media relating to Native issues and people, and The Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness, which ensures safety and survival for people while they are homeless.

Longhouse Media plans to use their award to engage Native youth in the civic process.

"It's imperative that Indigenous people, especially the youth, are invited to vote and made to feel that their voices matter to the future of our communities," said Tracy Rector, Executive Director of Longhouse Media.

The Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness intends to use the funding to ensure the region's most impoverished citizens have the necessary information to participate in the voting process.

"We are excited and honored to receive support from the Voter Education Fund to help make sure that people without homes have a voice," said Alison Eisinger, Executive Director of The Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness. "For people who are homeless, exercising the right and responsibility to vote can be complicated and discouraging, but in our democracy, where you live and how much money you have should not affect whether you can vote."

Organizations receiving funding will attend a training workshop at King County Elections during the week of June 12, 2017.

The Voter Education Fund was created after a successful pilot to engage communities that speak a language other than English. Last year, King County Elections and Seattle Foundation awarded \$224,000 in grants to community-based organizations. Through their voter outreach activities, the organizations reached 27,000 limited-English-speaking voters across King County.


Voter Education Fund Award Recipients

- Asian Counseling and Referral Services
- APACEvotes
- CAIR-WA
- Coalition of Immigrants, Refugees, and Communities of Color (CIRCC)
- Eritrean Association of Greater Seattle
- Ethiopian Community in Seattle
- Hearing, Speech & Deaf Center (HSDC)
- ICHS
- Ingersoll Gender Center
- Institute for Community Leadership
- Interim CDA
- Kent Black Action Commission
- Korean American Coalition
- LGBTQ Allyship
- Longhouse Media
- Mothers For Police Accountability
- NAACP
- Na'ah Illahee Fund
- Nsanga Corporation
- Open Doors for Multicultural Families
- Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness
- Skyway Solutions
- Somali Community Services of Seattle
- Somali Youth & Family Club
- SPIARC
- URBVOTE
- Washington Bus
- Washington CAN!
- White Center Community Development Association
- Wing Luke Museum

About Seattle Foundation

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Relevant Links

- [Voter Education Fund](#)
- [Seattle Foundation](#) 

Quotes



I'm thrilled with the diversity of organizations being funded this year and the exciting plans to support voting in their communities. We're committed to improving voting access, especially in what is an important local election year for King County.

Julie Wise, Director of King County Elections

Source: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/elections/education-and-outreach/voter-education-fund.aspx>

Voter Education Fund Breaking down barriers to voting

The Voter Education Fund (VEF) is a government, philanthropic and community partnership led by King County Elections, Seattle Foundation and community organizations like you. Since 2017, we have worked to fight voter suppression and increase civic engagement and voter participation among historically excluded communities.



Applications are now open!

King County Elections and Seattle Foundation will commit \$950,000 in grants over the next two-years (2021-2022) to more than 30 community organizations (501c3 organizations or organizations with a 501c3 fiscal sponsor) working in King County.

To apply, scroll down to see what types of grants we are offering. **Applications will be open from March 1, 2021 to April 2, 2021.**

What we fund

King County Elections and Seattle Foundation will award grants to community organizations that will provide ongoing campaigns or events focused on one or more of the following during the 2021-2022 election cycles

- Voter education or outreach informing historically excluded voters about how voting works in King County (i.e. Who is eligible to vote, what is vote-by-mail, and democracy 101).
- Voter registration activities where historically excluded communities work, play or connect.
- Nonpartisan opportunities for communities to come together and educate themselves about what's on the ballot.
- Culturally appropriate technical assistance in navigating the voting process, such as helping voters change their address or language preference.

Note: Due to COVID-19 applicants should take into consideration the need host or facilitate outreach virtually or outdoors for 2021 activities.

Focus communities

Focus communities for this grantee cycle include, but are not limited to Black, Indigenous, people of color, people experiencing homelessness, people convicted of a felony, limited-English speaking communities, people with disabilities and youth of color.

We will prioritize applications that:

- Are led and staffed by individuals reflecting the ethnic and cultural communities being served.
- Showcase a history or demonstrated ability to reach and engage community members, especially in relation to voting access.
- Have a plan for engaging the focus communities mentioned above.

Grant types

Organizations are invited to apply starting March 1 through April 2. Please note that your organization must be a 501c3 organization or have a 501c3 fiscal sponsor. In the application you may indicate which funding level your organization prefers:

- **Catalyst Level Funding** (up to \$40,000 total/\$20,000 a year for two years): Provide ongoing voter registration and education in 2021 and 2022 with a variety of approaches to engaging voters or potential voters in their community.
- **Capacity Level Funding** (up to \$15,000 or \$7,500 a year for two years): Provide a smaller series of targeted events or activities for potential voters in 2021 and 2022.


Preview the [Request for Proposal \(RFP\)](#) and [application questions](#) prior to getting started.

Timeline

Date	Description
March 1, 2021	Program launches and application period opens.
March 9, 2021 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.	Informational session on Zoom to learn more about the program and application. To attend and receive the Zoom link, send your RSVP to Bao-Tram at b.do@seattlefoundation.org .
March 22, 2021 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Informational session on Zoom to learn more about the program and application. To attend and receive the Zoom link, send your RSVP to Bao-Tram at b.do@seattlefoundation.org .
April 2, 2021	Deadline for application submissions.
May 2021	Selected grantee organizations announced.
May 2021	First grant installment distributed.
Early 2022	Second grant installment distributed.

Learn more and share

Learn about the Voter Education Fund's past work and what former grantee organizations have to say.

- [Voter Education Fund brochure](#) 

Questions

For questions or assistance please contact:

Bao-Tram Do

Seattle Foundation

b.do@seattlefoundation.org

206-407-4366



About King County Elections



About Seattle Foundation



King County Equity and Social Justice

Funding Application

Voter Education Fund

Increasing voter participation in historically excluded communities

Seattle Foundation and King County Elections are partnering to strengthen civic engagement through the Voter Education Fund.

The partners have committed \$950,000 in grants over the next two-years to organizations working to increase voter participation in historically excluded communities. Selected organizations will be funded for two years to do voter outreach and activities for the 2021 and 2022 election cycles.

PRIORITIES

The Voter Education Fund will prioritize grants to organizations that work to reduce inequities in voting access in historically excluded communities who have faced systemic racism, being targets of voter suppression, and increased barriers to participation. Our focus communities for this funding opportunity includes, but is not limited to Black, indigenous, people of color, people experiencing homelessness, people convicted of a felony, limited-English speaking (LES) communities, people with disabilities and youth of color.

Applicants can apply for up to \$40,000 to develop and implement a strategic ongoing campaign to engage voters or potential voters, or up to \$15,000 to provide a series of targeted events.

We are prioritizing applications that are:

- Led and staffed by individuals reflecting the lived-experience, racial, and ethnic communities being served; and
- Showcase a history or demonstrated ability to reach and engage members from the communities, especially as it relates to voting access; and
- Have a plan for engaging first time voters, people with disabilities, youth of color, individuals experiencing homelessness or people convicted of a felony.

SUMMARY INFORMATION

ANNOUNCEMENT DATE: March 1, 2021

DEADLINE: April 2, 2021

TOTAL AMOUNT AVAILABLE: \$950,000 will be available for grants over the two-year period (grant amounts will vary and will be administered by Seattle Foundation).

DESCRIPTION: Two-year grants to support voter education activities (i.e., voter registration, education and outreach, one-on-one technical assistance, and nonpartisan virtual gatherings or ballot parties) in historically excluded communities that are in compliance with COVID-19 guidelines.

TWO GRANT TYPES: Organizations are invited to apply for support in one of two categories:

1. Catalyst Level Funding (up to \$40,000 total, \$20,000 a year for two years)
2. Capacity Level Funding (up to \$15,000 total, \$7,500 a year for two years)

DURATION: The first installment will be distributed in May 2021 and the second in early 2022.

ELIGIBILITY: 501c3 organizations (or organizations with a 501c3 fiscal sponsor) working in King County, Washington.

INFORMATION SESSIONS: Virtual info sessions via Zoom on March 9th from noon-1:30m and March 22nd from 4:30-6:00pm.

CONTACT INFO: Please contact Bao-Tram at b.do@seattlefoundation.org with any questions about this grant opportunity.

FUNDABLE ACTIVITIES

King County Elections and Seattle Foundation will award grants to community-based organizations that provide either an ongoing campaign or events focused on one or more of the following that are appropriate given COVID-19 pandemic and recovery:

- Voter education or outreach informing historically excluded communities about how voting works in King County, such as who is eligible to vote, what is vote-by-mail, and democracy 101.
- Voter registration activities where historically excluded communities work, play or connect in compliance with COVID-19 government guidelines.
- Nonpartisan opportunities for communities to come together and learn about what's on the ballot.
- Culturally appropriate technical assistance in navigating the voting process, such as helping voters change their address or language preference.

GRANT TYPES

Applicants are invited to respond to this RFP and apply for funding in one of two areas related to the Voter Education Fund:

1. **Catalyst Funding** – grants will range up to \$40,000 (\$20,000 a year for two years).

Catalyst Funding will support organizations that provide ongoing voter registration and education activities throughout 2021 and 2022. Grantees are expected to offer a variety of approaches to educating and engaging voters or potential voters in their community throughout for the next two years. Organizations should consider applying for this level of funding if they have prior experience doing successful non-partisan voter engagement work within historically excluded communities.

2. **Capacity Level Funding** – grants will range up to \$15,000 (\$7,500 a year for two years).

Capacity Level Funding will support organizations that are newer to this who aim to provide a smaller series of targeted events to potential voters in 2021 and 2022. This is intended to grow the capacity of organizations representing focus communities who desire to increase their capability of doing effective, non-partisan voter education work.

Final grant amounts will be determined based on the proposed scope of work in relationship to both the number of voter engagement events hosted and the size of those events. All grantees will be required to attend specific cohort meetings throughout the year and prepare for monthly check-in calls with King County Elections. All grantees will have the opportunity to participate in technical assistance training and have access to capacity building workshops.

EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUSLY FUNDED ACTIVITIES

Examples of previously funded activities include (groups can use various strategies):

Catalyst Level examples	Capacity Level examples
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leading ongoing voter education work in historically excluded communities, including regular programming and a series of engagement events across multiple election cycles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hosting a culturally specific non-partisan ballot party to encourage voter participation within limited English-speaking communities.• Implementing virtual community events to encourage voter registration and participation.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrating voter education and registration activities into the daily programming operations of direct service organizations. Hosting a series of virtual and/or COVID-19 safe phone banks, candidate forums, or Get out the Vote activities throughout King County to increase voter participation. Creating targeted media efforts to reach historically excluded communities. Engaging focus communities in various stages of voter education, voter registration, and get-out-the-vote. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leading (5-10) smaller events to educate first-time voters or potential voters throughout 2021 & 2022 while collectively building a strategy to have increased impact in future election cycles. Developing culturally relevant communication channels (i.e., texting, messaging platforms).
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CRITERIA AND NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

Proposals will be selected and funding will be awarded based upon the degree to which the narrative meets the following criteria. The tables of Questions and Criteria are separated by Catalyst Level and Capacity Level.

CATALYST LEVEL

Write a narrative response to sections A-C and complete the field plan. Make sure that the responses are relevant and complete.

Section	Questions	Criteria
A. Target population/community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Describe your target population(s). (max 150 words) What significant role or gap within the community do you seek to fill? How would the community benefit from increased voter education, outreach and engagement? (max 250 words) What specific strategies will your organization use to engage this population/community in voter education activities in 2021 and 2022? Please share how you will tailor your approach given the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery. (max 400 words) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization reflects strong understanding of then needs within their target community. Applicant is focused in communities experiencing significant social, racial and/or economic inequities as prioritized by this RFP. Identifies specific strategies and plans that address the unique cultural needs of the target community and is appropriate given the COVID-19 pandemic.
B. Capacity and experience	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Does your organization have experience doing voter engagement with the target communities? Please describe. (max 250 words) How does your organization's leadership reflect the race, ethnicity, and languages spoken with the community you are targeting? (max 250 words) Please describe why you think your organization is well-positioned to receive a Voter Education Fund grant right now? For organizations with no to minimal experience, please be realistic about what your organization can offer and what you hope to learn. (max 250 words) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has expertise in voter education and engagement. Will have the necessary capacity and positioning to carry out the proposed strategy or effort. Staff/board are representative of the communities they are working with.
C. Tracking progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will your organization track information and evaluate progress and/or success? (max 150 words) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is tracking or will track the results or effectiveness of strategies. Has the ability to modify practices based on lessons learned?

D. Field plan & Budget	1. Complete the field plan and budget using the Field Plan template. For project events, list as many anticipated events as your organization expects to deliver throughout 2021 and 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates ongoing voter education and engagement activities that support potential voters through a variety of elections (primary, general, local). • Field plan takes into account strategies for COVID-19 pandemic and recovery. • Has a realistic budget which matches the proposed scope of work.
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CAPACITY LEVEL

Write a narrative response to sections A-C and complete the field plan. Make sure that the responses are relevant and complete.

Section	Questions	Criteria
A. Target population/ community	B. Describe your target population(s). (max 150 words) C. What significant role or gap within your target population do you seek to fill with this funding? How would the community benefit from increased voter education, outreach and engagement? (max 250 words) D. What specific strategies will your organization use to engage this population with voter education activities in 2021 and 2022? Please share how you will tailor your approach given the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery. (max 450 words)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant is focused in communities experiencing significant social, racial and/or economic inequities as prioritized by this RFP. • Identifies specific strategies and plans that address the unique cultural needs of the target community and is appropriate given the COVID-19 pandemic.
E. Capacity and experience	1. Does your organization have experience doing voter engagement with the target communities? Please describe. For organizations with no to minimal experience, please be realistic about what your organization can offer and what you hope to learn. (max 250 words) 2. How does your organization's leadership reflect the race, ethnicity, and languages spoken with the community you are targeting? (max 250 words)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant showcases prior experience leading voter education work or a strong desire to learn based on community needs. • Staff/board are representative of the communities they are working with.
F. Field plan & Budget	1. Complete the field plan and budget using the Field Plan template. For project events, list as many anticipated events as your organization expects to deliver. (max 150 words)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant identifies a reasonable number of events they're proposing to successfully engage voters or potential voters. Field plan takes into account strategies for COVID-19 pandemic and recovery. • Applicant a realistic budget which matches the proposed scope of work

HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Proposals must be completed online by 5:00 p.m. on April 2, 2021 through the Foundant website:

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=seattle>

For additional questions, please e-mail Bao-Tram Do at b.do@seattlefoundation.org.

INFORMATION SESSIONS

For those interested in learning more, please consider attending one of the optional virtual information sessions.

- **Date:** Tuesday, March 9th, 2021
Time: noon-1:30pm
- **Date:** Monday, March 22nd, 2021
Time: 4:30-6pm

Voter Education Fund – 2021-2022

Seattle Foundation

A. Organization Details

Please make sure your individual and organization contact information above is up-to-date!

Voter Education Fund 2021-2022 Grant Opportunity

The Voter Education Fund will prioritize grants to organizations that work to reduce inequities in voting access in historically excluded communities who have faced systemic racism, being targets of voter suppression, and increased barriers to participation. Our focus communities for this funding opportunity includes, but is not limited to Black, indigenous, people of color, people experiencing homelessness, people convicted of a felony, limited-English speaking (LES) communities, people with disabilities and youth of color. Applicants can apply for up to \$40,000 to develop and implement a strategic ongoing campaign to engage voters or potential voters, or up to \$15,000 to provide a series of targeted events.

We are prioritizing applications that are:

- Led and staffed by individuals reflecting the lived-experience, racial, and ethnic communities being served; and
- Showcase a history or demonstrated ability to reach and engage members from the communities, especially as it relates to voting access; and
- Have a plan for engaging first time voters, people with disabilities, youth of color, individuals experiencing homelessness or people convicted of a felony

A1. Organization/Proposal Name*

Name of Organization

Character Limit: 100

A2. Purpose Statement*

Please describe your funding request's purpose in 1-2 sentences.

Character Limit: 250

A3. Region Served*

Please select the Region that best matches that served by your project..

Choices

All

Eastside
King County
Pacific Northwest
Puget Sound Region
Rural Washington State
Seattle
South King County
Vashon Island
Western Washington

A4. Population Served*

Please select the Population that best matches those served by your project.

Choices

African American
Asian/Pacific Islander
At-risk Youth
Children and Youth
Communities of Color
Disabled
Faith Communities
Formerly Incarcerated/Court-Involved
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender
General Population
Hispanic/Latino
Homeless
Jewish
Low Income
Men and Boys
Native American
Refugees and Immigrants
Seniors
Women and Girls

A5. Nondiscrimination Statement*

Seattle Foundation believes no person should be excluded from agency services, employment or volunteer participation, and will not fund organizations that engage in unlawful discrimination on the basis of age, race, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, political affiliation or religious belief, or for any other discriminatory reason. Does your organization comply with this policy?

Choices

Yes
No

A6. Organization Profile Status*

To be eligible for Seattle Foundation grants, your Organization Profile information needs to be complete and up-to-date. Has your organization completed or updated its Organization Profile Form in the past 6 months?

Choices

Yes

No

A7. Fiscal Sponsor Status*

Does your organization have a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor?

Choices

Yes

No

A8. 2020 Operating Budget

Please enter your operating budget.

Character Limit: 10

A9. BIPOC-led and Serving*

Is your organization BIPOC-led (Black, Indigenous, or People of Color) and do you primarily serve (more than 50%) BIPOC individuals?

Choices

Yes

No

FUNDABLE ACTIVITIES

King County Elections and Seattle Foundation will award grants to community-based organizations that provide either an ongoing campaign or events focused on one or more of the following that are appropriate given COVID-19 pandemic and recovery:

- Voter education or outreach informing historically excluded communities about how voting works in King County, such as who is eligible to vote, what is vote-by-mail, and democracy 101.
- Voter registration activities where historically excluded communities work, play or connect in compliance with COVID-19 government guidelines.
- Nonpartisan opportunities for communities to come together and educate themselves about what's on the ballot.
- Culturally appropriate technical assistance in navigating the voting process, such as helping voters change their address or language preference.

GRANT TYPES

Applicants are invited to respond to this RFP and apply for funding in one of two areas related to the Voter Education Fund:

1. Catalyst Funding – grants will range up to \$40,000 (\$20,000 a year for two years). Catalyst Funding will support organizations that provide ongoing voter registration and education activities throughout 2021 and 2022. Grantees are expected to offer a variety of approaches to educating and engaging voters or potential voters in their community throughout for the next two years. Organizations should consider applying for this level of funding if they have prior experience doing successful non-partisan voter engagement work within historically excluded communities.
2. Capacity Level Funding – grants will range up to \$15,000 (\$7,500 a year for two years). Capacity Level Funding will support organizations that are new to this who aim to provide a smaller series of targeted events to potential voters in 2021 and 2022. This is intended to grow the capacity of organizations representing focus communities who desire to increase their capability of doing effective, non-partisan voter education work.

A10. Type of Funding Requested*

Based on the criteria above, please select the type of funding your organization is seeking.

Choices

Catalyst Funding – grants will range up to \$40,000 (\$20,000 a year for two years).

Capacity Level Funding – grants will range up to \$15,000 (\$7,500 a year for two years).

B. BIPOC-led and Serving Follow-up Questions

B1. BIPOC Community Benefit*

How will BIPOC communities benefit from this grant if made?

Character Limit: 500

B2. Culturally or Linguistically Specific*

How are you providing culturally and/or linguistically specific services?

Character Limit: 500

Fiscal Sponsor Information

Fiscal Sponsor Name*

Please enter your fiscal sponsor organization name below.

Character Limit: 100

Fiscal Sponsor EIN*

Please enter your fiscal sponsor's tax id (EIN).

Character Limit: 50

Name of Fiscal Sponsor Contact*

Character Limit: 50

Contact Information -- Phone or Email*

Character Limit: 50

Fiscal Sponsor Mailing Address*

Please enter your fiscal sponsor's mailing address.

Character Limit: 500

Non-Compliant with Non-Discrimination Statement

Non-compliant With Nondiscrimination Statement*

If you answered 'No' to compliance with Seattle Foundation's Nondiscrimination Statement, please explain below.

Character Limit: 500

Fiscal Sponsor Letter Upload

Fiscal Sponsor Letter Upload

Please use the following Word document to provide us a project sponsorship letter from your fiscal sponsor. First download the Fiscal Sponsor Cover Letter file, save it to your computer, fill it out, and then upload your completed version of it it using the 'Upload a file' button below'.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

501c3 Determination Letter Upload

501c3 Determination Letter*

Please upload your 501(c)(3) determination letter.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

C. Catalyst Grant Questions

CATALYST LEVEL (up to \$40,000 total, \$20,000 a year for two years)

Write a narrative response to the questions below, and complete and upload the field plan. Make sure that the responses are relevant and complete.

C1. Target Population(s)*

Describe your target population(s). (max 1000 characters, about 150 words)

Character Limit: 1000

C2. Community Need and Benefit*

What significant role or gap within the community do you seek to fill? How would the community benefit from increased voter education, outreach and engagement? (max 1500 characters, about 250 words)

Character Limit: 1500

C3. Engagement Strategies*

What specific strategies will your organization use to engage this population/community in voter education activities in 2021 and 2022? Please share how you will tailor your approach given the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery. (max 2500 characters, about 400 words)

Character Limit: 2500

C4. Voter Engagement Experience*

Does your organization have experience doing voter engagement with the target communities? Please describe. (max 1000 characters, about 250 words)

Character Limit: 1000

C5. Leadership and Community*

How does your organization's leadership reflect the race, ethnicity, and languages spoken with the community you are targeting? (max 1500 characters, about 250 words)

Character Limit: 1500

C6. Organization Positioning*

Please describe why you think your organization is well-positioned to receive a Voter Education Fund grant right now? For organizations with no to minimal experience, please be realistic about what your organization can offer and what you hope to learn. (1500 characters max, about 250 words)

Character Limit: 1500

C7. Tracking and Evaluation*

How will your organization track information and evaluate progress and/or success? (1000 characters max, about 150 words)

Character Limit: 1000

C8. Field Workplan Upload*

Complete the field plan and budget using the Field Plan template. For project events, list as many anticipated events as your organization expects to deliver throughout 2021 and 2022.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

D. Capacity Level Grant Questions

CAPACITY LEVEL (up to \$15,000 total, \$7,500 a year for two years)

Write a narrative response to these questions and complete the field plan. Make sure that the responses are relevant and complete.

D1. Target Populations(s)*

Describe your target population(s). (1000 characters max, about 150 words)

Character Limit: 1000

D2. Community Need and Benefit*

What significant role or gap within your target population do you seek to fill with this funding? How would the community benefit from increased voter education, outreach and engagement? (1000 characters max, about 250 words)

Character Limit: 1000

D3. Engagement Strategies*

What specific strategies will your organization use to engage this population with voter education activities in 2021 and 2022? Please share how you will tailor your approach given the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery. (2500 characters max, about 400 words)

Character Limit: 2500

D4. Voter Engagement Experience

Does your organization have experience doing voter engagement with the target communities? Please describe. For organizations with no to minimal experience, please be realistic about what your organization can offer and what you hope to learn. (1500 characters max, about 250 words)

Character Limit: 1500

D5. Leadership and Community*

How does your organization's leadership reflect the race, ethnicity, and languages spoken with the community you are targeting? (1500 characters, max 250 words)

Character Limit: 1500

D6. Field Plan and Budget Upload*

Complete and upload the field plan and budget using the Field Plan template. For project events, list as many anticipated events as your organization expects to deliver.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

EFT Payments

Is your organization signed up for EFT payments?*

Has your organization signed up for EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) payments to be used in the event this application is approved?

If not, please sign up here: <https://www.seattlefoundation.org/aboutus/grantee-eft-enrollment-form>

Not sure? Email us at eft@seattlefoundation.org

Choices

Yes

No

Not sure

Exhibit C

The following table summarizes 2018 and 2019 grant recipients, funds awarded and campaign involvement.

Columns “Funded 2018” and “Funded 2019” report the amount that each grantee was paid in the respective years, per the corresponding Form 990 of the Seattle Foundation. An “*” indicates that the organization was listed as a grantee in a KCE news release, but that the exact amount of the grant was not readily discernible from the Form 990. The 2019 payment was the first installment of a two part grant, where a presumably identical amount would have been paid to the organization in 2020 (the Seattle Foundation’s 2020 Form 990 is not yet available).

[<https://www.seattlefoundation.org/aboutus/annual-reports-and-990s>]

The other columns indicate whether and how the organization was involved in the respective ballot measure campaigns – statewide Initiatives I-940 and I-1631 in 2018; statewide Referendum R-88 and Initiative I-976 in 2019; statewide Referendum R-90 and Seattle Proposition 1 in 2020.

“Endorsed” or “Opposed” indicates that the grantee has made public statements respectively for or against the ballot measure. These statements may have been made on the organization’s website, social media presence, or in the campaign’s materials. Images and other sources which document the organizations’ public statement are compiled in Exhibit D.

A dollar amount indicates the total cash and in-kind contributions that the organizations made to the respective campaign and which were reported to the PDC. If the organization also made public statements in support of the campaign, its endorsement or opposition to the measure is not separately noted. In some cases, the campaign contribution was made by a separate legal entity with a similar name and under common control with the grantee.

The first row below the headings row of the table shows the Seattle Foundation’s contributions to the ballot measure campaigns. For context, the second and third rows report the declared positions of the King County Democratic and Republican parties.

Additional notes:

- a) The Latino Community Fund’s 2018 contributions to I-1631 were reported as jointly from The Latino Community Fund and “Front and Centered”. The latter was at that time an unincorporated association of which the Latino Community Fund was both a member and the fiscal sponsor. The Latino Community Fund separately endorsed I-1631.
- b) The campaign advocacy attributed to SOAR was released in the name of School’s Out Washington, which describes itself as SOAR’s “host agency, fiscal sponsor and employer of record for Soar staff members”.

[<https://www.schoolsoutwashington.org/pages/copy-of-job-posting-communications-coordinator>]

Organization	Funded 2018	I-940	I-1631	Funded 2019	R-88	I-976	R-90	Seattle Prop. 1
Seattle Foundation			\$100,000 YES		\$50,000 YES	\$50,000 NO		\$50,000 YES
King County Democrats		(no position)	(no position)		Endorsed	Opposed	Endorsed	Endorsed
King County Republicans		Opposed	Opposed		Opposed	Endorsed	Opposed	(no position)
21 Progress				\$ 7,500				
APACEvotes	\$ 17,000	\$69 YES	\$69 YES	\$ 15,000	Endorsed		Endorsed	
Asian Counseling and Referral Service	\$ 17,000	Endorsed	\$598 YES	\$ 16,000	Endorsed	Opposed	\$1585 YES	Endorsed
Being Empowered Thru Supportive Transitions	\$ 17,000			\$ 15,000				
Blackout WA	\$ 17,000							
Byrd Barr Place				\$ 7,500				
Coalition of Immigrants, Refugees and Communities of Color (CIRCC)	\$ 17,000			\$ 15,000	Endorsed			
Disability Rights Washington				\$ 17,500		\$7,392 NO	Endorsed	Endorsed
El Centro de la Raza				\$ 16,000	Endorsed	Opposed	Endorsed	Endorsed
Entre Hermanos	\$ 10,000		Endorsed	\$ 15,000				
Eritrean Association in Greater Seattle	\$ 15,000			\$ 10,000				
Hearing, Speech & Deaf Center				\$ 7,500				
India Association of Western Washington				\$ 7,500			Endorsed	
Indigenous Showcase / Longhouse Media	\$ 15,000			\$ 17,500				
Ingersoll Gender Center	\$ 20,000	Endorsed		*			Endorsed	
Institute for Community Leadership	\$ 15,000			\$ 19,000				
InterIm CDA	\$ 10,000			\$ 15,000				
International Community Health Services	\$ 19,000			\$ 17,000				
Kent Black Action Commission (KBAC)				\$ 7,500				
Korean American Coalition—WA	\$ 15,000			\$ 18,500	Endorsed			
Latino Community Fund	\$ 15,000		\$138,699 YES	\$ 15,000		Opposed		
LGBTQ Allyship	\$ 10,000	Endorsed						
Living Well Kent				\$ 7,500				
Mother Africa	\$ 10,000		Endorsed	\$ 15,000				
Mujer al Volante				\$ 7,500				
Muslim Community & Neighborhood Association				\$ 7,000				
Na'ah Illahee Fund				\$ 12,500				
NAMI Eastside	\$ 15,000	Endorsed		\$ 7,500				
Nsanga Corporation	\$ 10,000							
OneAmerica	\$ 10,000	Endorsed	\$20368 YES					
Open Doors for Multicultural Families	\$ 15,000	Endorsed						
Para Los Niños				\$ 7,500				
Progress Pushers				\$ 7,500				
Real Change	\$ 8,000	Endorsed						
Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA)	\$ 10,000			\$ 15,000				
Sea Mar Community Health Centers	\$ 13,375	Endorsed						
Seattle King County NAACP	\$ 10,000							
Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness	\$ 20,000	Endorsed		\$ 20,000		Opposed	Endorsed	
Service is a Lifestyle dba URBVOTE	\$ 10,000			\$ 7,500				
SOAR (and its sponsor School's Out Washington)	\$ 17,000			\$ 7,500	Endorsed	Opposed		
Somali Family Safety Task Force	\$ 18,000							
Southwest Youth and Family Services	\$ 15,000							
South Park Information and Resource Center	\$ 7,500							
Tenants Union of Washington State				\$ 7,500				
The Vera Project				\$ 7,500				
The Washington Bus Education Fund	\$ 20,000	Endorsed	Endorsed	\$ 16,000			\$2236 YES	Endorsed
United Territories of Pacific Islanders Alliance (U.T.O.P.I.A.) Seattle				\$ 7,500	Endorsed		Endorsed	
Villa Comunitaria				\$ 15,000				
Washington Community Action Network Education & Research Fund	\$ 20,000	\$1925 YES	Endorsed	\$ 18,000			\$150 YES	Endorsed
West Hill Community Association	*			\$ 7,500				

Exhibit D

The following are quotes and/or screenshots from the grantees' grant applications and social and digital media. Together they document the pattern that VEF grant funds supported express advocacy, and not merely neutral "Go Vote" messages and balanced or objective information on ballot issues. [The referenced grant applications are public records held by King County Elections].

APACEvotes

The organization received a total of \$47,000 in VEF grants in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

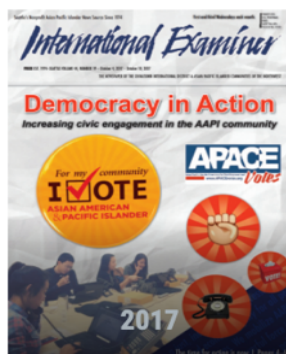
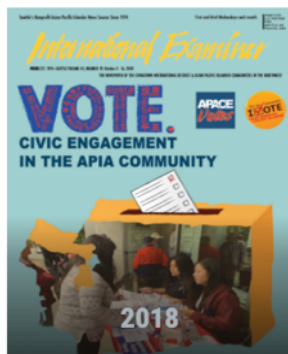
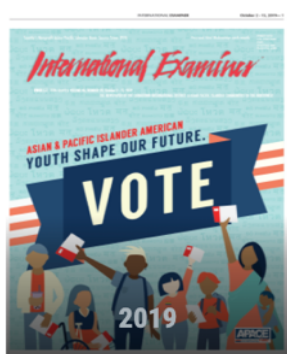
From its 2019 VEF grant application:

"With more staff, there is room for a more robust Get Out the Vote (GOTV) campaign that involves many different outreach strategies. These are elaborated in our field plan, but some new efforts include college move-in day voter registration drives, candidate forums in new locals and innovative social media outreach ... APACEvotes will employ a host of strategies to engage our AAPI populations throughout 2019 and 2020. Past strategies have included direct mails, phone banks, text banks, door knocking, ethnic media, video productions, candidate forums and social media targeted directly to these communities."

In 2018 and 2019 its ethnic media strategy included sponsorship of the "Get Out the Vote" editions of the *International Examiner* newspaper. The same editions also included express candidate and ballot measure advocacy advertisements from APACEvotes' affiliated 501(c)(4) corporation, APACE. APACEvotes is an unincorporated entity. The respective websites indicate that APACE and APACEvotes share board members and staff.

Ethnic Media

Each year, APACEvotes sponsors a GOTV issue of the Chinatown-based newspaper *International Examiner*. Check out our past publications.



From its web site:

Why registering APIAs and other POC is vital in Washington State... we have the ability to win on issues that will move a national dialog forward on: gun responsibility, climate change, minimum wage, and voter enfranchisement. API voters are a large and important voting block. There is an incredible opportunity to have API voters to make the difference on these important policies and issues.

The organization's strategic plan makes clear that its goal is not simply to encourage fellow citizens to vote, but to "elect progressive decision-makers" and to "champion progressive policies".

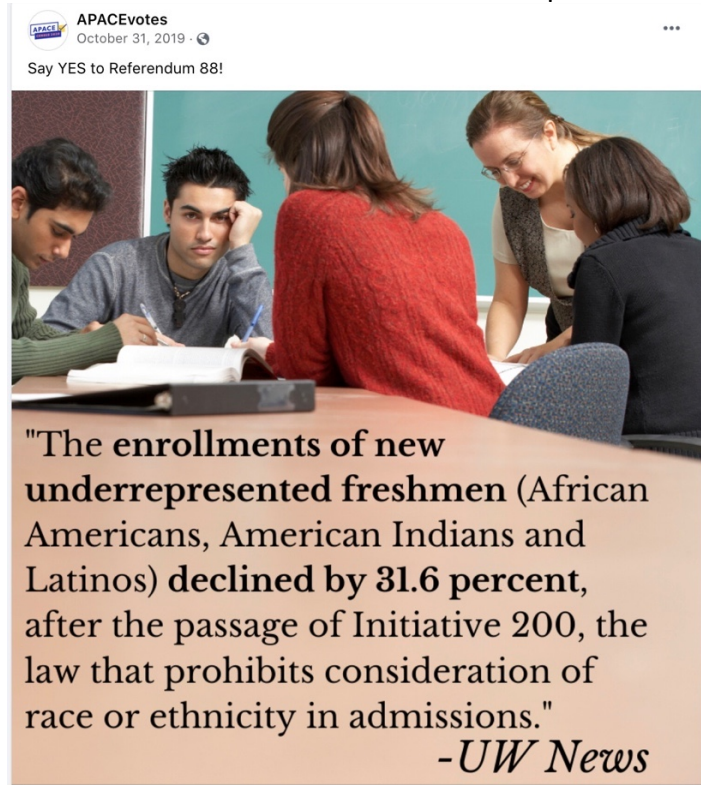
<https://apacevotes.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/2018-2020APACE-strategic-planFINAL.pdf>

<https://apacevotes.org/gotv/>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tGtS4uSaWy5PlvHlo4nO7lvF4VOV3mAN/view>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1g3Z9l9cnv4RtxKZQRbD3LZao6HnScatU/view>

Its social media outreach also included express advocacy:



Asian Counseling and Referral Service

The organization received a total of \$49,000 in VEF grants in 2018, 2019 and 2020. In its 2019 VEF grant application it stated that the voter education activities it would employ in 2019 and 2020 would include

“Non-Partisan Voting Education and GOTV

Run multilingual GOTV print and social media ad”

The organization’s social and other digital media presence included express advocacy:



Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS)

October 31, 2019 ·

<https://www.facebook.com/.../a.125757.../149378113099451/...>



"The enrollments of new underrepresented freshmen (African Americans, American Indians and Latinos) declined by 31.6 percent, after the passage of Initiative 200, the law that prohibits consideration of race or ethnicity in admissions."

-UW News

WA Fairness

October 30, 2019 ·

Banning affirmative action in Washington state has made our student bodies less diverse. We can reverse this trend. Approve 1000 via Ref 88 and make Washington become the 43rd state to pass affirmative action.

Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS)

October 26, 2020 ·

Black and Brown girls are more likely to experience sexual violence but are less likely to report it. Check the box to **Approve 90** to empower BIPOC teen girls with the skills and tools to report and prevent sexual violence.

R90 ensures ALL Washington youth receive the same information.



Because of my lack of public school sex-ed and cultural upbringing, it took me five months to realize I was sexually assaulted - and I found out by Googling it.

Don't let another student down. Vote to Approve R90!

**-Kim Phan,
College student**



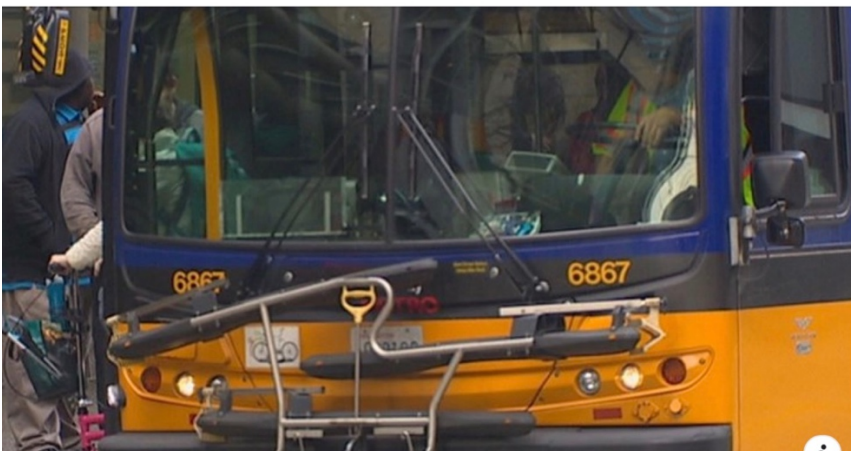
APPROVE 90

Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS)

October 28, 2020 ·

Why should you vote to renew Seattle Transportation Benefit District funding? Without it:

- * Bus routes will have reduced service and likely be overcrowded.
- * The ORCA LIFT program, which provides reduced-fare transit to low-income residents, will likely be cut.



IEXAMINER.ORG

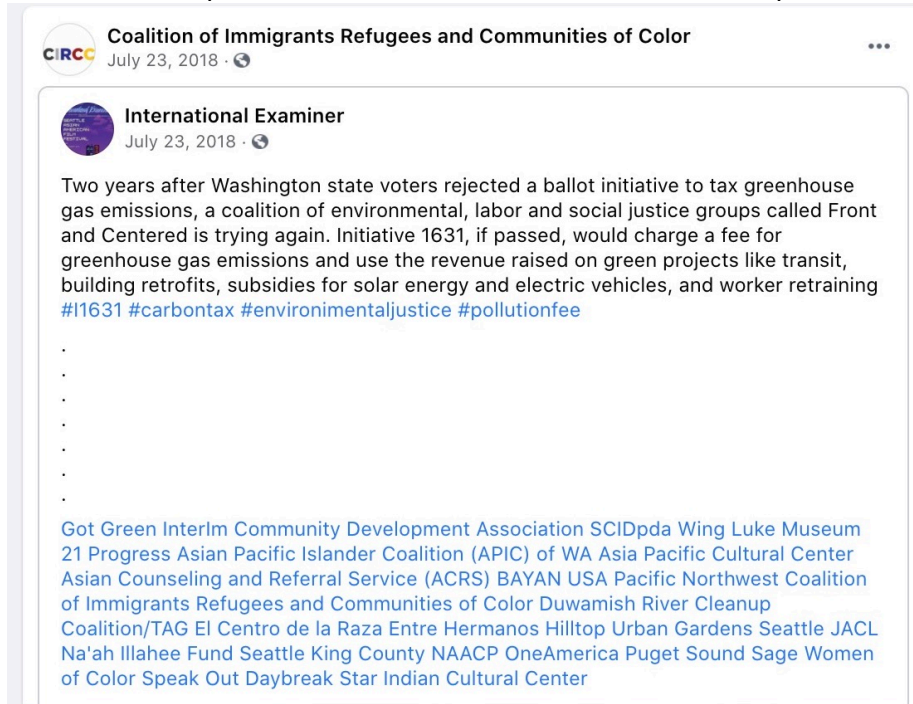
Opinion: Why Seattle residents should vote to renew Seattle Transportation Benefit District funding on the ballot this year | International Examiner

Coalition of Immigrants, Refugees and Communities of Color (CIRCC)

The organization received a total of \$47,000 in VEF grants in 2018, 2019 and 2020. From its 2019 VEF grant application:

“Conducted educational presentations on issues that impact our communities such as tax reform, Initiative 1631, the census, and immigration issues.

Its educational presentations on Initiative 1631 included express advocacy:



It continued to expressly advocate for Referendum 88 in 2019.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20200807123502/https://wafairness.org/support-for-i-1000/>

Disability Rights Washington

The organization received a total of \$35,000 in VEF grants in 2019 and 2020. Its express advocacy in those years included the following:





Disability Rights Washington

October 23, 2019 · 🌐

...

12.8% of WA's population has a disability that impacts our ability to access transportation. Of those of us with travel-limiting disabilities, only 1/5 of us who are working age report working full or part time. A big part of this is because of the barriers we face in transportation access. Tim Eyman's Initiative 976 would devastate our already strained transportation system by cutting funding for road and transit projects throughout our state. Watch the Vote 'No' on 976 series created by [Rooted in Rights](#) to learn more.



YOUTUBE.COM

Vote 'No' on 976: Amandeep

Amandeep moved to Lynwood five years ago from India. Thanks to public transit, she no...



Disability Rights Washington

November 2, 2020 · 🌐

...

Don't drop off on transit — Vote YES for Seattle Proposition 1 at the end of your ballot!

Op-Ed written by DRW Disability Mobility Initiative Director, [Anna Zivarts](#) and [MLK Labor](#) Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Nicole Grant.



CAPITOLHILLSEATTLE.COM

Capitol Hill Community Post | Don't drop off on transit — Vote YES for Seattle Proposi...

From Nicole Grant, MLK Labor & Anna Zivarts, Disability Rights Washington With the election just days away, it's important that Seattleites make their voices heard on the issues that will shape...

El Centro de la Raza

The organization received a total of \$32,000 in VEF grants in 2019 and 2020.

From its 2019 VEF grant application:

“Voter Engagement Initiative activities will include outreach at large public events and cultural celebrations where underrepresented communities meet, socialize and connect, providing a non-partisan space for culturally appropriate, bi-lingual assistance in navigating the voting process, registration procedures, language preferences and available ballot mailing locations. Outreach activities will include community canvassing, booths at local high school events and graduations, community colleges, seasonal and cultural celebrations, online and digital resources ...”.

Its online and digital resources and public events for voter engagement included express advocacy:



The poster features a large, stylized 'GOTV' in red on the left side. At the top right is a logo for 'WA FAIRNESS' with the text 'APPROVE I-1000 R 88' below it. The main title 'RALLY & CANVASS TO APPROVE I-1000' is in bold blue, with 'WITH FOOD, FUN, AND MUSIC' in yellow below it. The event details are in blue text: 'NOV 2 | 11 - 2PM', 'EL CENTRO DE LA RAZA', '2524 16TH AVE S', 'SEATTLE, WA 98144'. At the bottom, contact information for Moh Kilani is provided in blue text.

GOTV

WA FAIRNESS
APPROVE I-1000 R 88

**RALLY & CANVASS
TO APPROVE I-1000**
WITH FOOD, FUN, AND MUSIC

Doors will open at 10:45AM
with the entertainment,
program, and canvass
dispatch to follow. We will
head out in the community to
knock doors and talk to our
neighbors about the need to
approve I-1000 via R 88 to
ensure there is fairness and
opportunity for all.

NOV 2 | 11 - 2PM
EL CENTRO DE LA RAZA
2524 16TH AVE S
SEATTLE, WA 98144

For more information, contact Moh Kilani at
(206) 618-5326 or kilani@wafairness.org



October 2019 Newsletter

Estimad@ Amig@ {FIRST_NAME},

The General Election is on November 5. The time to take action is upon us. I am writing to share El Centro de la Raza's position on two particular issues, **Referendum Measure No. 88 on Initiative 1000** and **Initiative 976**. Our positions on these issues represent the needs of our diverse communities. It is important to lift the voices of community members so that they can gain access to the tools for fulfilling their maximum potential.

Vote 'Yes' on Referendum Measure No. 88 on Initiative 1000

Washington State is one of only eight states that ban affirmative action for all qualified women, all veterans and service members, seniors, and people of color. If voters approve this initiative, you will have helped restore fairness to government employment, public sector contracting, and state colleges and institutions.

If implemented, greater efforts will be made to ensure a larger pool of qualified applicants. Outreach, recruitment, and advertisement are some examples. We support this statewide effort because it means our communities have a fighting chance to ensure fairness and opportunity to all by approving Initiative 1000 on the November ballot. [Click here to view more information.](#)

Vote 'No' on I-976

Also on this year's ballot is Initiative 976. Property, sales, and car-tabs are taxed at the local and state levels to generate the necessary funding for creating or maintaining essential projects that address the needs of hundreds of thousands of residents across Snohomish, King, and Pierce counties. I-976 seeks to limit annual taxes and fees on motor vehicles by capping car tabs at a flat rate of \$30, instead of following the existing formula. If I-976 passes, the [total revenue loss to the state is \\$1.9 billion as well as \\$2.3 billion to local governments](#), ultimately threatening transportation safety and repealing Sound Transit 3 (ST3) passed in 2016.

<https://www.approve90wa.org/endorsements>

Entre Hermanos

The organization received a total of \$40,000 in VEF grants in 2018, 2019 and 2020. In its 2019 VEF grant application, it stated that its voter education activities would include:

- Social media- voter education and registration information will be posted on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, newsletter, and website

It engaged in express advocacy:



Entre Hermanos

October 8, 2018

Yes on 1631 es importante, nos ayudara a mejorar nuestra salud. Si puedes votar a favor hazlo. Si no puedes votar puedes hacer que las personas que puedan voten a favor.

Yes on 1631 is important, it will help us improve our health. If you can vote in favor do so. If you can't vote you can make people who can vote for it.

⚙️ · [Hide Translation](#) · [Rate this translation](#)

Ingersoll Gender Center

The organization received a \$20,000 VEF grant in 2018 and additional grants in 2019 and 2020. In its 2019 VEF grant application, it stated that:

Ingersoll has led civic engagement and community organizing efforts for our entire history. For the last two years we have been leading civic engagement work with the support of the Voter Education Fund. ... we have been a part of several coalitions that have pushed back against transphobic legislation and ballot measures in the recent years.

Its work included express advocacy in 2018 and 2020 as shown in the list of endorsements for I-940 and Referendum 90.

<https://www.approve90wa.org/endorsements>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20181101140443/https://www.deescalatewa.org/endorsers>

Korean American Coalition

The organization received a total of \$52,000 in VEF grants in 2018, 2019 and 2020. In its 2019 VEF grant application, it stated that its voter education activities would include:

We will also utilize our monthly newsletter and social media channels (Facebook, Instagram) to push out messaging around voting - how/where to register, why it is important, and reminders of key dates and deadlines.

Its social media messaging around voting included express advocacy:



Korean American Coalition - Washington

November 1, 2019 · 🌐

...

I-1000 is Effective, Needed Policy to Restore Fairness and Opportunity - Now is our best chance to restore fairness in public hiring, contracting and education. Approve I-1000 via Referendum 88 by 11/5!

Latino Community Fund

The organization received a total of \$45,000 in VEF grants in 2018, 2019 and 2020. In its 2019 VEF grant application, it stated that its voter education strategies would include:

Online strategies that include Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Spapchat to reach different age groups to share messages about the importance of voting,

It used social media for express advocacy:



Mother Africa

The organization received a total of \$40,000 in VEF grants in 2018, 2019 and 2020. In its 2019 VEF grant application, it stated

Based on our experience doing voter education activities in 2018, we have learned that several approaches work very well in our communities. ... [one] of our approaches is to partner with other [community-based organizations] to engage their specific communities and create partnership and strength at the grassroots organizing level. ... We further invite experts on various topics to come and provide educational workshops and trainings to our communities, for example on knowing your rights, and learning about specific ballot measures. ... we do share about our events with a wider audience through our social media accounts and our newsletter.

The organization used these approaches in 2018 to engage in express advocacy:



Mother Africa supports Initiative 1631! Why? It works for our communities, whom have been subjected to living in areas with higher levels of toxins and pollution. This initiative will create fees for polluting companies that are spewing toxins into our environment in WA State. Those fees will go into a fund which can be designated for projects designed by and led by communities of color, immigrants and refugees by the WA State Legislature.

Check out the list of endorsements for 1631 here- <https://yeson1631.org/endorsements/>



Initiative 1631 represents an important opportunity to reduce pollution and invest directly in communities that have been the most impacted by climate pollution. While leaders of color know that I-1631 will work for us (because our community helped to write it), Big Oil is putting in over \$21 million to mislead voters. That is why leaders throughout the state are sharing why they are saying Yes On 1631. We won't let Big Oil speak for us. #climatejustice #YESon1631

Learn more here:



FRONTANDCENTERED.ORG

Why Leaders of Color Support I-1631

As leaders working in communities of color, Initiative 1631 represents an important opportunity for us. Recognizing that we are disproportionately harmed by climate change, I-1631 aims to reduce...

OneAmerica

OneAmerica received a \$10,000 VEF grant in 2018 and engaged in express advocacy on social and other digital media.



Pearl Jam joins the growing chorus of voices supporting Yes On 1631!



PEARLJAM.COM

Pearl Jam - Why We Support I-1631 in Washington State

Washington State's Initiative 1631 is an investment in clean energy and the people and c...



HUGE congratulations to our allies [De-Escalate Washington](#), who just got I-940 certified! This initiative would provide better training and accountability for the police who serve our communities. Great work in collecting signatures for this important issue facing our communities. #YesI940

TWITTER.COM

WA Secretary of State on Twitter

"Initiative to the Legislature No. 940 was certified today. Elections staff randomly checked a percentage of the signatures. The results of the random check indicated 301,250 valid signatures were submitted,..."

<https://weareoneamerica.org/2018/06/14/oneamerica-signs-onto-statement-of-support-for-i-1631-and-healthy-thriving-communities/>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20181101140443/https://www.deescalatewa.org/endorsers>

Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness

The organization received a total of \$60,000 in VEF grants in 2018, 2019 and 2020, and engaged in express advocacy

5,228

PEOPLE OUTSIDE

AN EMERGENCY?

WE'LL HELP YOU GET INSIDE

Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH)

October 24, 2019 · 🌐

Yes, we're with [Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle](#) and [NO on Tim Eyman's I-976](#): We urge our members and friends to protect public transit and safe streets: Vote [#NoOn976](#)!



“ ”

OUR ORGANIZATION BELIEVES THAT ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES. I-976 WOULD CUT UPWARDS OF 300,000 HOURS OF BUS SERVICE AND THAT IS WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE NO ON I-976 THIS NOVEMBER 5TH!

--MICHELLE MERRIWEATHER
CEO OF URBAN LEAGUE OF SEATTLE

NO on Tim Eyman's I-976

October 21, 2019 · 🌐

Follow the advice of the [Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle](#) and vote NO on Eyman's 976!

The Urban League appreciates that for a business community to thrive, all workers must have excellent public transit options.

5,228

PEOPLE OUTSIDE

AN EMERGENCY?

WE'LL HELP YOU GET INSIDE

Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH)

October 25, 2018 · 🌐


Friends! If you're reading this, there's still time to VOTE - you should have gotten your ballot in the mail by now. If not, comment below and we'll help you problem solve. We warmly encourage WA voters to vote YES on Initiative 940 ([De-Escalate Washington](#)). I-940 is designed to improve training for law enforcement personnel that will make all of us safer and save lives. Did you know that in the last year more Washingtonians were killed in encounters with law enforcement than in 45 other states? Almost a third of the people killed were experiencing a mental health crisis. We can and must do better. By voting Yes on Initiative 940 and improving training for our law enforcement officers, we can prevent potentially lethal encounters from happening in the first place. If you want to learn more about Initiative 940, visit www.deescalatewa.org.

United Territories of Pacific Islanders Alliance (U.T.O.P.I.A.) Seattle

The organization received a total of \$15,000 in VEF grants in 2019 and 2020. Its 2019 VEF grant application stated that its voter education strategies would include:

We will also distribute themed material and encourage people to register to vote on our website and all social media communications.

Its social media communications included express advocacy:



United Territories of Pacific Islanders Alliance - WA
November 4, 2019 · 🌟

With Election Day tomorrow, Tuesday, Nov 5th. U.T.O.P.I.A Seattle supports fairness and equal opportunity for everyone. But we know that even in this strong economy, too many veterans, small businesses, women and our diverse communities are being left behind

We can take a big step forward in creating opportunity and level playing field for all by approving Initiative 1000 on our November ballot. Washington is currently one of only eight states that bans affirmative action consideration for qualified women, all veterans and service members, seniors, and people of color.

We should strive to become a state where someone's race, ethnicity, gender, or other status isn't a generational determinant of their ability to thrive or share equitably in the prosperity afforded to our region.

IF YOU ARE QUALIFIED, YOU SHOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE JOB.

For more information, please visit: wafairness.org



United Territories of Pacific Islanders Alliance - WA
October 14, 2020 · 🌟

Did you know that sex education in schools is linked to, lower unintended pregnancies, lower STI and racial equity. Also, youth are able to identify sexual abuse when it is happening. Do not let false information deter you away from voting yes on Referendum 90. Our youth will be only taught age-appropriate and inclusive sexual health education.

[#approve90](https://twitter.com/approve90)



**APPROVE I-1000/R 88
THIS NOVEMBER**

The Approval of I-1000 via
Referendum 88 would allow
Washington to rejoin the 42 states
in the country that hold themselves
accountable to creating more
equitable outcomes for all citizens.

YES TO FAIRNESS!

**WA
FAIRNESS**

APPROVE I-1000 / R 88

DID YOU KNOW THAT

**IN STATES WITH SEX
EDUCATION, STUDENTS
ARE BETTER ABLE TO IDENTIFY
AND AVOID DOMESTIC ABUSE**

APPROVE 90

SAFE & HEALTHY YOUTH

WASHINGTON

DID YOU KNOW THAT

**IN STATES WITH SEX
EDUCATION, STUDENTS ARE
BETTER ABLE TO IDENTIFY AND
AVOID HUMAN TRAFFICKING?**

APPROVE 90

SAFE & HEALTHY YOUTH

WASHINGTON

Washington Bus Education Fund

The organization received a total of \$52,000 in VEF grants in 2018, 2019 and 2020. It and/or its affiliated corporation engaged in express advocacy in 2018 and 2020.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20181101140443/https://www.deescalatewa.org/endorsers>
<http://yesfortransit.com/endorsements/>



The Washington Bus
September 25, 2018 · 🌐

...

There is no better way to celebrate [National Voter Registration Day](#) than with The Washington Bus and Yes On 1631 at [The Vera Project](#)! Join us tonight for live music by [Sour Notes](#) and Greg Hughes, screen printing demos, and voter registration - all free of cost. We look forward to seeing you there!





<https://www.facebook.com/events/374905689716211/>



The Washington Bus
November 2, 2020 · 🌐

...

For all you last minute voters, we encourage you to vote YES on Seattle Prop 1, Referendum 90, and King County Charter Amendments 5 and 6. Vote yes for public transit, comprehensive sex ed, and police accountability.

<h2>VOTE YES</h2> <p>For comprehensive sex education For police accountability For public transit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Statewide: Referendum 90✓ King County: Charter Amendments 5 and 6✓ Seattle Proposition 1 	<h2>KING COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENT 5</h2> <p>Returns the office of sheriff to an appointed position, to be appointed by the King County Executive and confirmed by the King County Council.</p> <p>Why? Gives voice to those who can't vote or who face serious barriers to voting, and allows for accountability of the sheriff to the council - who are all voted in by you.</p> <p>This allows for greater ability to implement reforms, and greater public accountability.</p> 
<h2>KING COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENT 6</h2> <p>Removes language from the 1996 amendment that prevents alteration of sheriff's office duties, and Gives King County Council the authority to establish the duties and purpose of the Department of Public Safety.</p> <p>Why? This will allow the council to invest in community alternatives and restorative justice, and follow the lead of communities calling for a more accountable criminal justice system.</p> 	<h2>REFERENDUM 90</h2> <p>Referendum 90 will uphold the new Washington state law requiring all public schools to teach age-appropriate, inclusive, comprehensive sexual health education to K-12 students.</p> <p>Why? Young people need access to information and resources about healthy relationships to help them understand how to respect personal boundaries, ask for consent, and learn how to say and receive a "no." LGBTQ youth deserve to see themselves reflected positively in sexual health education and experience acceptance by their teachers and peers.</p> 

Washington Community Action Network Education & Research Fund

The organization received a total of \$56,000 in VEF grants in 2018, 2019 and 2020, It and/or its affiliated corporation engaged in express advocacy not only for ballot measures, but also for at least one candidate.



Initiative 940 will improve training for law enforcement and help save lives.

De-Escalate Washington

October 18, 2018 · 🌐

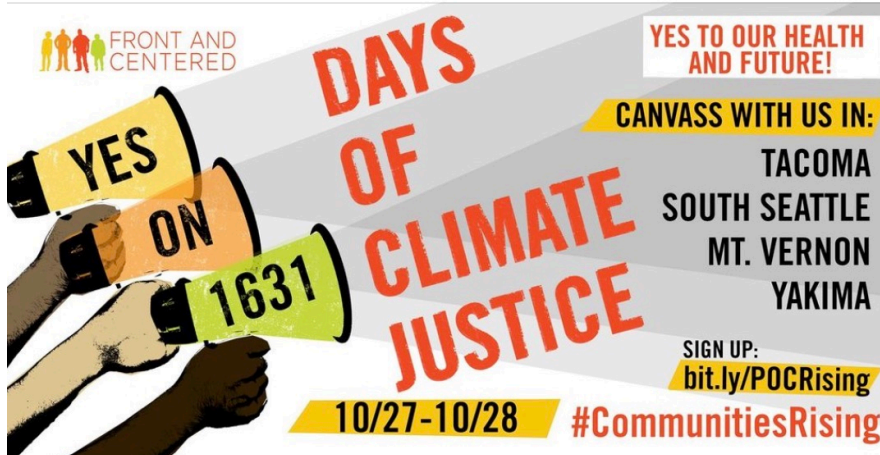
Xochitl and [Washington Community Action Network](#) support [#YesOn940](#) because it will improve training, save lives, and help restore trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. "With 940, we will make sure that every single police officer in our state is trained and fully equipped to interact with all members of our community, including people like my brother, who has special needs."



Washington Community Action Network

October 24, 2018 · 🌐

The election is only two weeks away and we need ALL HANDS ON DECK to push for the change we need in our communities. Help out [Front and Centered](#) in their last push to get Yes On 1631 across the finish line!



<https://www.approve90wa.org/endorsements>
<http://yesfortransit.com/endorsements/>



Washington Community Action Network is 😊 feeling civic.
October 30, 2018 · 🌐



Vote for [Steve Gonzalez](#) for Washington Supreme Court. He's the only candidate with judicial experience. We don't want to see his opponent, who peddles conspiracy theories, to decide on critical issues for our state like health care, housing and workers' rights.



NWNEWSNETWORK.ORG

'Deep state' or deep sixed? The Washington Supreme Court race that's getting buried