

**From:** [Courtney, Chrissy](#)  
**To:** [Courtney, Chrissy](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Follow-up Email from the Mosqueda Campaign  
**Date:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 12:44:38 PM

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**From:** Katherine Bobman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 2:58 PM  
**To:** LeBeau, Rene <[Rene.LeBeau@seattle.gov](mailto:Rene.LeBeau@seattle.gov)>  
**Cc:** Teresa Mosqueda <[REDACTED]>; Abbot Taylor <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Follow-up Email from the Mosqueda Campaign

**CAUTION: External Email**

Hi Rene -

Below is a follow-up from Teresa and our campaign about the issue of the Democracy Voucher Replacement Form.

Let us know what the best next steps are to discuss this issue with SEEC and the Program.

Thank you,  
Katherine

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Dear Rene -

Thank you for the call last week with our team. I appreciate your time, and I hope this letter will underscore how crucial the Replacement Voucher Form is to making Democracy Vouchers accessible and equitable, especially in the COVID-19 pandemic.

As discussed, and as a result of the unique circumstances of 2021, we are requesting that the SEEC allow Democracy Voucher Replacement Form to be made publicly available on campaign websites and included in mass email communications.

First, we do not have a campaign office or headquarters. For public health reasons, we should not encourage any campaign to have an in-person headquarter in 2021. This is not a normal year, we are not able to chat with residents, meet with them at the office and share the Replacement Form. We simply cannot do this hazardous activity in the pandemic.

Similarly, I am not going to have in-person events at this time. I will not be meeting community members in person which makes it completely impossible to offer residents the hard copy of the replacement form in-person. This is the responsible thing to do given the ongoing increased risk of COVID, the more deadly strain that is circulating, the fact that people of color are more likely to contract and die from

COVID, and both as a candidate and as an elected official - it would be dangerous and irresponsible for me to host/attend these types of in-person gatherings even with a mask on.

My campaign website is the **only** place where folks can interact with the campaign, and the place we direct residents to after online events or meetings. Because that's what the public health guidelines direct us to do - stay home, stay healthy.

The multiple step processes that residents need to follow to get Democracy Vouchers can be a barrier to accessing a tool that is aimed at addressing voter suppression and correcting ways that residents have been kept out of our voting process. Not allowing residents to access Democracy Vouchers on my website further exacerbates the very impediments to civic participation that the program is attempting to address.

Here's an example scenario. Think about the multiple steps people have to go through - going to your website, emailing for a voucher, waiting for a voucher to be emailed back, and then they have to fill it out and send it back in? We are going to lose people. This represents a significant barrier to those with multiple jobs, long commutes, community or family obligations that don't allow them to be online for long periods of time, or for those who lack access to the internet. Instead, they could just access the replacement vouchers on my campaign website if they'd like to give - and that is how we reduce the barriers to participation. If it can be done in one sitting on a smartphone, then that's what we should do. Isn't the mission of the Seattle's Democracy Voucher program to encourage participation in the process? Multiple steps doesn't achieve that.

Second, residents have already indicated to me that they do not have their vouchers, can't find them, never got them, etc. For residents that are renters, like I was when I first ran, they are more likely to move frequently. Who is more likely to be a renter: women, people of color, members of the LGBTQ community, low-wage workers. If they do not have access to their vouchers, I want to be able to help them. While vouchers were just mailed, many people may have done what I did four years ago - accidentally put them in the recycling, or perhaps they moved, or are dealing with COVID, or the stress of losing their job, needing a test/vaccine, trying to help their kids with online school. The possible reasons for losing your Voucher are endless, especially this year. We need to make it a one-stop-shop to get vouchers when they interact with my website. I have a lot of supporters who are young and don't have stable, consistent housing. I have a lot of supporters who are low-wage workers, and work two jobs, with many responsibilities, and I just want to make it easy to access those vouchers. Recently, on a Zoom meeting of just Seattle residents, a full half of the audience said they needed help to use the replacement form.

Third, to your question about valid signers. We are still planning to audit the forms for all the signers, and comply with DVP guidance on adding Voter IDs. So anyone who accesses the form online on my site will *still* go through the verification process.

Fourth, to the comment that this form could be used for bundling Vouchers for the

campaigns, that is not the goal. It's to make the process easier. I am fully aware that bundling is illegal, no matter whether it's vouchers or donations. If the form we have prepared for my site is private to prevent bundling. This is a single form that a single individual fills out if/when they need a replacement - just like I would hand to them if I were at a meeting or at the door. It isn't bundling to have my donation link public, so the logic that this replacement link being on my public site doesn't make sense.

The purpose of the Democracy Voucher Program is to allow people to have a voice and support the campaigns of their choice. In order to give them that voice, we need to make the forms, and other resources as accessible as possible. In a normal year, I might be more understanding of not having the form on the website, but not this year. Not when I am unable to interact with our supporters face to face. Not during a deadly global pandemic. Online interaction is the backbone of how we have been able to make much of our local economy work continue - and using our online site for Democracy Vouchers is the only option that conforms with public health guidelines to allow the replacement forms to be accessible and available to those who need it.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know next steps to present this to the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission.



Teresa Mosqueda