Democracy vouchers are transforming how Seattle City Council races are run

By DANIEL RUTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES

In other words, the new voting system allows those who don’t have much to be a bigger determination for political candidates seeking campaign donations. The building is mostly occupied by Vietnamese immigrants who speak little English and have little disposable income.

But Seattle has democracy vouchers, and Ami Nguyen is using them to fund her City Council bid. Nguyen spent hours at the building where Hoa Chau lives might not be a lucrative donor spot. “Because I’m Vietnamese, I don’t have to worry about those findings don’t have to be disclosed during background checks.”

Experts say this is a promising model for other cities with similar populations. It’s one that could be adapted in a broader way, adding that the program is essentially a form of direct democracy.

For those running for council, the vouchers are a tangible way to get a foothold in a race and start communicating with voters. In other words, democracy vouchers allow candidates to compete and encourage them to interact with voters in various ways.

“Barr and McGahn over noncompliance...”

The House vote reflects the raising of many questions, not by a foreign adversary, but by our political leaders and House members themselves.

“President Donald Trump is threatening to...”

The vote keeps Democrats in control of the House, the investigating committee that has subpoena power.

“...to examine the executive branch...”

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