

To find out more about VEF, how to apply or for additional information, visit bit.ly/VEFKingCounty



 Contact Us

Phone

206-296-VOTE (8683)

1-800-325-6165

TTY Relay: 711

Email

elections@kingcounty.gov

Get social with us

 twitter.com/kcelections

 facebook.com/kcelections

 instagram.com/kcelections

Getting Out the Vote



887,606
voters reached



17,550
voters registered



5,423
community events



Voter Education Fund

A Government, Philanthropic & Community Partnership



About Us

The Voter Education Fund (VEF) is a government, philanthropic and community partnership led by King County Elections, the Seattle Foundation and local organizations to remove barriers to voting. The fund provides grants for community-based organizations working to increase access to the ballot among historically excluded communities.

After an initial pilot program in 2016, the VEF was launched in 2017 and has since grown. This last cycle (2019-2020) nearly \$1 million was invested across 39 grantee organizations.

Our Work

We work to strengthen democracy. We aim to:

- **Educate** voters about vote-by-mail.
- **Register** those eligible to vote and future voters.
- **Familiarize** voters with the electoral process with nonpartisan information.
- **Provide** culturally appropriate technical assistance.

Breaking Down Voting Barriers

Community organizations serve a wide array of communities, including communities of color, limited-English speaking residents, low-income youth, veterans, people experiencing homelessness, and people who have been convicted of a felony. This past cycle placed an increased emphasis on voter outreach to people with disabilities; Black, Brown and Indigenous voters; and historically excluded residents in South King County.

What Our Partners Say

“Through our work with the Voter Education Fund, we were able to reach out to more than 8,000 AAPI voters through both phone and text banking in King and Pierce county. We also reached 1,500 ACRS clients by putting in-language King County Elections voter resources in our food delivery bags. Providing services to our communities is core to what we do and making voting and our democracy more accessible is integral to that.”

Jinxia Wu, Asian Counseling and Referral Service

“The Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness believes that our democracy is strengthened when everyone’s voice is heard. The Voter Education Fund grant has helped our staff and volunteers get to community sites where our neighbors who are unhoused, unsheltered, or low-income receive resources and help them register to vote, provide resources needed to cast their ballot, or just give them the final encouragement to vote simply by reinforcing that their voice matters.”

Saleena Salango, Advocacy Coordinator for the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness

“Participating in the VEF helped us to activate existing networks and partnerships and explore new avenues of outreach to ‘Get Out the Native Vote’. We engaged the voices of our Youth and community so that we were seen, heard and responded to.”

Susan Balbas, Co-founder and Executive Director of the Na’ah Illahee Fund

“From pre-show registrations at Skyway Outdoor Cinema to new partnerships with students at our local high schools, the Voter Education Fund has equipped us with the

ability to bolster our existing programming in ways that increase visibility of the registration and voting processes in our community. The fund has also come through in critical times of change. As part of VEF, WHCA began hosting voter support booths at Skyway Library on election days to provide replacement envelopes, answer questions, and help voters reprint their ballots. When computer and print services were unavailable at the library due to COVID19 measures, we were able to leverage our grant funds to set up a mobile print station outdoors and continue the support our community deserves.”

Jeremy Williams, board president of the West Hill Community Association

“ReWA works one-on-one to make sure new voters with limited English have the support they need to make their voices heard in the democratic process. Each year ReWA offers this service to refugees and immigrants as they become citizens and we are very proud to offer this service to communities that are typically underrepresented and left out of the electoral democratic process.”

Mahnaz Eshetu, Executive Director of Refugee Women’s Alliance (ReWA)

