



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Date: May 28, 2026

Submitted by Kate Lawson, Director of University Affairs

BOARD BILL 3.194: An Act to Grant Funding to the Office of Government Relations to Provide a Space for The Community Engagement Hub

WHEREAS: November 3rd, 2026 is the date of the upcoming Midterm Elections, and

WHEREAS: Eligible voters, including significant amounts of UW students, will have the opportunity to vote for city, state, and federal representatives, and

WHEREAS: According to RCW 29A.40.180 and WAC 434-250-350, a community engagement hub must be hosted on the UW campus for students to engage with the election, and

WHEREAS: The ASUW, in conversation with King County Elections, has historically provided the space for this event, while King County Elections has provided staffing, materials, and all other necessary items, and

WHEREAS: Representatives from King County Elections have offered to uphold this precedent and provide all staffing and materials for the 2026 Community Engagement Hub if the ASUW provides them a space to do so, and

WHEREAS: According to King County Elections, the UW community engagement hub helped to issue 599 ballots and register 107 new voters during the 2025 off-cycle elections, and

WHEREAS: The Community Engagement Hub as outlined in RCW 29A.40.180 suggests providing the resource for up to eight days prior to the election, and

WHEREAS: To maximize engagement and minimize costs, the ASUW Office of Government Relations has planned for the 2026 UW Community Engagement Hub to run from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Friday, October 30; Saturday, October 31; Monday, November 2; and Tuesday, November 3; as well as a load out period from 7:30 am to 11:00 am on Wednesday, November 4, and

WHEREAS: Representatives from King County Elections have projected that over 1000 students may engage in this year's Community Engagement Hub due to high projected voter turnout and yields from previous midterm elections, and

WHEREAS: the planned space for this event (HUB 145) cannot accomodate the projected volume of students that will engage with this event, requiring that the location be shifted to the HUB Lyceum, and

WHEREAS: The HUB has provided a room booking quote for the HUB Lyceum for this event to operate for four days and load out for one day, and

WHEREAS: The quote provided totals \$4,833.00, and

WHEREAS: Because this year is a bi-annual midterm election, the additional funding necessary for space was not accounted for in annual budgeting procedures, and

WHEREAS: King County Elections has requested that this room booking be finalized prior to the end of the 2025-26 school year to ensure that the event planning can begin as soon as possible.

**THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

THAT: The ASUW Board of Directors allocate \$4,833.00 from the General Fund to the Office of Government Relations to be used to fulfill the HUB Lyceum booking quote for the eight-day period that the community engagement hub will be available to students, and

THAT: This funding be used by the Office of Government Relations solely to fulfill this invoice, with the understanding that King County Elections will fulfill all other necessary expenses related to this event, and

THAT: A copy of this bill be forwarded to Nandana Jaideep, President; Christina Coop, SAO Advisor; Kate Lawson, Director of University Affairs; Brandon Elliot, Director of Legislative Affairs; MJ Mencias, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs; Kaitlyn O'Connor, Community Organizer; Khushi Loomba, Finance and Budget Director; Owen Rivera, Personnel Director; Trevor Hunt, Associate Director of HUB Finance & Business Operations.

End

References:

[Link to Student Engagement Hub Room Booking Quote](#)

Information Provided by King County Elections:

From: Hwang, Claudia <clhwang@kingcounty.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 1:02 PM

To: Christina Coop <cmcoop@uw.edu>; Monica Duran <meduran@uw.edu>; Kaitlyn O'Connor, ASUW Community Organizer, Office of Government Relations <asuwoogr@uw.edu>; Annika Peterson, GPSS Vice President External Affairs <gpssvpex@uw.edu>; MJ Mencias, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, ASUW Government Relations <asuwoogr@uw.edu>; Brandon Elliott, Director of Legislative Affairs, ASUW Government Relations <asuwoogr@uw.edu>

Cc: LeVan Hodson, Kendall <Kendall.LeVanHodson@kingcounty.gov>; Hampton, Jerelyn <Jerelyn.Hampton@kingcounty.gov>; Buchanan, Leland <Leland.Buchanan@kingcounty.gov>

Subject: RE: Great success at UW Student Engagement Hub for November Election

Hello Christina, Monica, and ASUW,

I understand that for this year we may not form MOU and may not have extra space in addition to HUB 145.

I would like to bring to your attention, that per our projection, UW Student Engagement Hub can see around 1000 people on the Election day in November General Election.

While I believe we can operate in HUB 145, I am concerned that the line will be very long, breaching into HUB's common space and pose safety issues.

Also, I high recommend to have ASUW's reservation on HUB 145 finalized before the school's out for the summer, as the Election begins November election preparation in August.

The goal is always to service our voters at UW Student Engagement Hub effectively and safely and create a positive voting experience.

Please let me know how I can help in next steps.

kingcounty.gov/elections 

From: LeVan Hodson, Kendall <Kendall.LeVanHodson@kingcounty.gov>

Sent: Friday, May 15, 2026 11:44 AM

To: 'Christina Coop' <cmcoop@uw.edu>; Monica Duran <meduran@uw.edu>; Hwang, Claudia <clhwang@kingcounty.gov>; Kaitlyn O'Connor, ASUW Community Organizer, Office of Government Relations <asuwoogr@uw.edu>; Annika Peterson, GPSS Vice President External Affairs <gpssvpex@uw.edu>; MJ Mencias, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, ASUW Government Relations <asuwoogr@uw.edu>; Brandon Elliott, Director of Legislative Affairs, ASUW Government Relations <asuwoogr@uw.edu>; Khushi Loomba, Finance Director, ASUW Board of Directors <asuwb@uw.edu>

Cc: Hampton, Jerelyn <Jerelyn.Hampton@kingcounty.gov>; Buchanan, Leland <Leland.Buchanan@kingcounty.gov>

Subject: RE: Great success at UW Student Engagement Hub for November Election

Thanks for confirming that, Monica, and for all your support for this work over the years.

I know we're down to the wire from a school year perspective, but I am hoping it might be possible to pull a group of folks together to talk about this. I think there's some important context here that may be missing.

- Under [RCW](#) and [WAC](#), our role is really to support this obligation of the University – we operate it as we would a regular Vote Center simply because of the unique size of the University of Washington, but the university could do this differently if that was the preference.
- While not my primary concern, the law does also specify a contract laying out each parties' roles and responsibilities.
- Having actually been onsite in the 2022 midterm, I share Claudia's concerns about not having enough space. There are significant safety and reputational risks here by not ensuring we have an appropriate set-up. This feels especially important in what could be a potentially volatile midterm year.
- While I do think it's extremely reasonable, given the statutory requirements, to expect the University to provide a space (especially as there is no cost for staffing, materials, or anything else) if cost is the biggest barrier here I could be open to sharing that this year as we figure out a longer-term solution.

Please let us know as soon as possible if we could talk through all of this. Thanks!

Kendall

Kendall Hodson (she/her)
Chief of Staff
King County Elections
206-263-9706



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