July Quarterly Filing Due July 10, 2020

The filing period for the July quarterly report (July 10 Filing) commenced July 1, 2020 and ends July 10, 2020 and is required of all state central committees, town committees, traditional and independent expenditure political committees, and candidate committees and exploratory committees regardless of financial activity. The filing must cover the period starting with the first day after the period covered by the last filing, which is April 1, 2020 for many, through June 30, 2020.
Grants Awarded Faster Than Ever Before

Candidates, treasurers, and SEEC Commissioners and staff have all worked together to process more grants in the first six weeks of the grant season than in any cycle since the inception of the CEP—by a large margin. Over 30% more General Assembly grants were awarded in the first six weeks than the previous high-water mark set in 2018 (99 to 77). Given that so many of the people involved were quarantining at home, fundraising online, and Zooming into meetings and meet-and-greets, this counts as a remarkable achievement. This is the second cycle in which SEEC has implemented Pre-Application Reviews (PARs) to pre-approve grant applications, and the first cycle in which it was widely used. Additionally, staff worked with committees to get their online fundraising pages pre-approved early. Despite the pandemic, nearly one hundred committees have met their fundraising goals and are all done with fundraising for the entire election. Congratulations all!

General Assembly Grants Awarded Through Week Six of Election Cycle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year/Cycle</th>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>Week 6</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>16</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>33</td>
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</table>
Important Reminder: CEP Candidate Committees Demonstrating Public Support

This election cycle, senate candidates qualifying for a full grant for the general election stand to receive $103,955 and representative candidates may get as much as $30,575 in public funds to spend for their own race. In order to qualify, these candidates must demonstrate public support for their candidacies, much of which comes from their own constituents each cycle.

Please remember that only the candidate committees seeking to participate in the Citizens’ Election Program may solicit and receive the contributions they use to qualify for a grant. Political committees, party committees and special interest groups may not solicit contributions to be used by the candidate to qualify for the Program. The candidate committees must demonstrate enough public support to qualify for a grant themselves, through their own committee.

State central committees, town committees, and legislative leadership and caucus committees may still assist candidates. Each of these committees may spend up to $11,900 for a senate candidate and up to $4,165 for a representative candidate during the general election campaign period for organization expenditures. These party and political committees may pay for meet-and-greets for the candidate, pay for advisors or consultants to assist the candidate, and, after a primary, or now, if there is no primary in the particular race, pay for certain advertisements called “party candidate listings.” The candidate must, however, be present at any such meet-and-greet to solicit and receive their own donations, and the party candidate listings may not ask for contributions to a CEP campaign or provide a direct link to the CEP campaign’s online contribution page. The communication may otherwise show the paying committee’s support for the candidate, encourage people to vote for the candidate, and/or direct them to their general website for more information.

Generally speaking, individuals may assist a candidate in qualifying by volunteering for their committee or becoming a solicitor for the campaign. The Commission has also recently provided guidance on other ways individuals and groups may assist candidates.

See the CEP Guide and/or the Party Committee Guide for more information on party candidate listings and other types of organization expenditures. See also Declaratory Ruling 2018-01: Political Activity of Organized Groups.

NOTE: Candidates cannot make contributions to their own campaigns.

If a candidate provides money to their campaign, it is considered personal funds and should reported in Section E: Personal Funds of the Candidate Received this Period in the SEEC Form 30. In the case of CEP campaigns, state representative candidates may provide up to $1,000 in personal funds and senate candidates may provide up to $2,000 in personal funds. Unreimbursed campaign expenses paid by the candidate are also counted as personal funds. Nonparticipating candidates may provide unlimited personal funds to their campaigns.
Primary Participants –
Upcoming CEP 10/11 Deadline and
Weekly Supplemental Filings

Upcoming CEP 10/11 Deadline for Primary Participants

General Assembly candidates in a primary are reminded that their Affidavit of Intent to Abide by Expenditure Limits and Other Program Requirements (SEEC Form CEP 10) or, in the case of those opting not to participate, their Affidavit of Intent Not to Abide by Expenditure Limits (SEEC Form CEP 11), is due by 4:00 pm on July 17, 2020.

Candidates not in a primary have until 4:00 pm on September 24, 2020 to submit their CEP 10/11.

All General Assembly candidates are required to submit one of these affidavits, with the exception of candidates who have filed a 1B exemption from forming a candidate committee.

Weekly Supplemental Filings Set to Begin for Most Primary Participants

Every candidate committee in a primary in which there is at least one candidate participating in the CEP must file weekly supplemental statements with the Commission beginning with the second Thursday following the July quarterly filing through the Thursday before the primary. The deadlines are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Report</th>
<th>Period Covered</th>
<th>Filing Deadline</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Weekly Supplemental Primary</td>
<td>07/01/20 – 07/21/20</td>
<td>07/23/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Weekly Supplemental Primary</td>
<td>07/22/20 – 07/28/20</td>
<td>07/30/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Weekly Supplemental Primary</td>
<td>07/29/20 – 08/04/20</td>
<td>08/06/20</td>
</tr>
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</table>

For candidate committees in a primary in which neither candidate is participating, the 7th day preceding election filing is due on August 4, 2020, covering the period of July 1, 2020 through August 2, 2020.
Applying for a CEP Grant

In past election cycles, when we were able to open our offices to the public, we would encourage campaigns to make appointments with their elections officer to review their CEP grant application packages. Those who took advantage of this opportunity were much more likely to have their grants approved the first time through. While our offices are not currently open to the public, we are still offering these appointments by phone and strongly encourage campaigns to reach out to their elections officer to schedule a conference call when they are about ready to apply.

As a reminder, here is the 2020 Grant Application Deadline and Commission Meeting Schedule. We also have the Grant Application Checklist which we encourage you to refer to as you prepare your application package so that you have everything in order when you are ready to submit.

Online CEP Trainings

As a reminder, we have moved our in-person CEP trainings to online so you can now view them from home at a time most convenient for you. Most of the modules are now available for viewing and can be found here. We have added new and improved material to many of the modules and have found that campaigns that have watched these online trainings are better prepared when they come in to apply.

If you have any questions that come up while you are viewing the trainings, please contact your elections officer.
Online Contribution Reviews for 2020 Committees

If you have set up an online contribution page for your committee’s website, please contact Commission staff so we can review your website before it goes live to make sure it captures the relevant information and complies with campaign finance law. The best practice is to model your online contribution page after the sample online contribution forms provided on the Commission’s website.

Please note that every campaign’s website must be separately reviewed and approved by Commission staff – even if it mirrors the website you used, and which was approved, during a prior election cycle or it was put together by a consultant or vendor who has created websites for other campaigns that were approved by staff.

Please contact the Candidate Services Unit at 860-256-2985 (or email your URL to public.finance@ct.gov) for further assistance.
CEP Grant Amounts: LAPIGs

For candidate committees applying early in the CEP season, please keep in mind that the Commission awards a partial initial grant until it is certain whether a campaign is entitled to a full initial primary or general election grant, and whether the general election grant should be an unopposed, partial, or full grant.

These grant adjustments have been made since 2008, pursuant to Public Act 08-2. Candidates for whom we have documentation establishing that they will have an opponent in the general election but for whom we do not know whether there will be a primary receive the primary grant amount, since it is lesser than the general election grant amount; therefore, it is the lesser applicable partial initial grant amount (“LAPIG”). If they are in a party-dominant district and a member of the dominant party, then they will get the party-dominant primary grant amount. Candidates who have no opposition in a primary or in the general election at the time they are approved for a grant will receive the unopposed general election grant because that amount is the LAPIG in such a case, since the unopposed grant amount is lower than the primary grant they would obtain if they face a primary.

Once the Secretary of the State has finalized the ballots for candidates in multiple town districts and Commission staff has had the opportunity to contact all of the town clerks in the case of candidates in single town districts, the Commission will be able to release the remainder of the full grant amount, if appropriate. In past cycles, this has occurred during the first half of July. For those candidates who are unopposed in the general election at the time they are approved for a grant, the Commission will be ready to adjust your grant amount if you later gain a minor party or petitioning party opponent. Please be assured that the Commission is prepared, as in all previous election cycles, to release additional funds to your campaign should the ballot indicate that is appropriate.
To qualify for a grant from the Citizens’ Election Program, General Assembly candidates must demonstrate they have adequate support from the public by meeting a three-part threshold – (1) they must raise an aggregate amount of small-dollar qualifying contributions, which varies depending on the office sought; (2) they must receive qualifying contributions from a certain number of individuals residing in their district, which varies depending on the office sought; and (3) they must obtain access to the ballot.

A major party is defined as a political party whose candidate for Governor in the most recent gubernatorial election received at least 20% of the whole number of votes cast or a political party having a number of enrolled members on the active voter registry list of at least 20% of the total number of enrolled members of all parties on the active voter registry list at the time of the last gubernatorial election. A candidate who has obtained the nomination of a major party is eligible for a full general election grant base amount.

Minor party candidates and petitioning candidates are also eligible for public grants. A minor party candidate is eligible for a full general election grant if the candidate has obtained the nomination of a minor party whose candidate seeking election for the same office in the same district at the last preceding regular election received at least 20% of the votes cast for that office. A petitioning candidate is also eligible for a full general election grant if the candidate has obtained ballot access by utilizing the nominating petition procedure and has obtained petition signatures from electors equaling at least 20% of the votes cast for that office in the prior general election.

A minor party candidate is eligible for two thirds of a full general election grant if the minor party’s previous candidate received at least 15% of the votes cast for the office and one third of a general election grant if the party’s previous candidate received at least 10% of the votes cast for that office. Similarly, a petitioning candidate is eligible for a two thirds grant if they obtain petition signatures by electors equaling at least 15% of the votes cast for that office in the prior election and one third of a general election grant if they collect signatures equaling at least 10% of the last votes cast.

If you are a minor party candidate or a petitioning candidate and are interested in participating in the CEP, please contact your elections officer as soon as possible so we can go over the process in greater detail with you and your campaign staff.
Reminder to Those Who Have Not Filed April Quarterly

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and pursuant to Executive Order No. 7M, fees and penalties were suspended for committees that were late in submitting the April quarterly filing up to 90 days past the prescribed deadline. Please be aware that the 90 day extension is ending. We encourage you to submit your April quarterly filing soon and before your July quarterly filing, which will be due July 10, 2020 and for which there will be no suspension of fees and penalties. Your April quarterly filing should be submitted before your July quarterly filing so that your summary totals have properly carried forward when you prepare your July filing.

Staff Spotlight

The Commission recently welcomed two new staff members. Legal Investigator James Augustyn has joined the Enforcement Unit and Staff Attorney Chelsea Ruzzo has joined the Compliance Unit. Welcome, James and Chelsea!