

State Elections Enforcement Commission

Citizens' Election Program



Press Release

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STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES FIRST PUBLIC GRANTS OF SEASON

HARTFORD, CT – May 29, 2014 – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) announced that it will make its first public grant payments under the Citizens’ Election Program for the August 12, 2014 primaries and the November 4, 2014 general election. The Commission determined that state representative candidates Tim Ackert (R – 8th District), David Baram (D – 15th District), Gail Lavielle (R – 143rd District), Joseph Polletta (D – 68th District), Robert Sampson (R – 80th District), Mary Stone (D – 23rd District), Emily Wilson (R – 142nd District) and Melissa Ziobron (R – 34th District) were eligible to receive Program grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidate Bob Duff (D – 25th District) was eligible to receive a Program grant.

The Citizens’ Election Program is a voluntary program which allows qualifying candidates for General Assembly and statewide offices to receive full public financing. To qualify for public campaign financing, candidates must demonstrate they have adequate support from the public. Candidates for state representative accomplish this by raising \$5,000 from at least 150 individuals residing in municipalities in their district. Candidates for state senate accomplish this by raising \$15,000 from at least 300 individuals residing in municipalities in their district. Participating candidates may only accept small dollar contributions from certain individuals—the maximum contribution is \$100—and no contributions from state contractors or PACs.

Grant amounts vary. Typically, primary grant amounts are \$11,140 for state representative candidates and \$38,990 for state senate candidates, but amounts are higher if the candidates run in districts where one major party has a large advantage in the number of electors registered with that party. In most races, general election grant amounts are \$27,850 for state representative candidates and \$94,690 for state senate candidates. When it is not known whether a candidate will face a primary, then the lesser applicable grant amount is awarded and later supplemented, if need be. The Commission will be accepting applications from candidates in primaries until July 18th and, for candidates in the general election, until October 10th.

The Citizens’ Election Program allows qualifying candidates for the General Assembly and statewide office to receive full public financing. The CEP was designed, in part, to reduce the influence of special interests in state politics. In its fourth full cycle of providing public funding to General Assembly candidates, the CEP continues to provide a seawall against the rising tide of special interest money in today’s elections.

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