

# State Elections Enforcement Commission

## Citizens' Election Program



Press Release

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### STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES FINAL PRIMARY GRANTS OF SEASON

HARTFORD, CT – July 25, 2014 – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) announced that it will make its final public grant payment under the Citizens’ Election Program (“CEP”) for the August 12, 2014 primaries. The Commission determined that state representative candidate Donna Thompson-Daniel (D – 7th District) was eligible to receive a Program grant. The Commission will not be awarding any more grants for the August 12 primaries, but will continue to accept applications for candidates in the general election until October 10th.

This year there will be twenty-one primaries in races for which public grants are available. Of the forty-seven candidates running in those primaries, forty-four are participating in the CEP (94%), and forty-one have received public grants (87%). Candidates will be participating in primaries for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Comptroller, as well as for the office of state representative in fourteen districts and state senator in four districts. There are also two Judge of Probate primaries. Judge of Probate candidates are not eligible for CEP grants.

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.

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