

State Elections Enforcement Commission

Citizens' Election Program



Press Release

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STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES ELEVENTH PUBLIC GRANTS OF SEASON

HARTFORD, CT – July 30, 2014 – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) announced that it will make its eleventh public grant payments under the Citizens’ Election Program (“CEP”) for the November 4, 2014 general election. The Commission determined that state representative candidates William Aman (R – 14th District), Jeffrey Berger (D – 73rd District), Brandi Briggs (R – 136th District), Michael Demicco (D – 21st District), Daniel Farley (R – 65th District), John Hampton (D – 16th District), Joseph LaBella (D – 55th District), Selim Noujaim (R – 74th District), Jill Oberlander (D – 150th District), Marie Soliani (D – 63rd District), Alexander Taubes (D – 101st District), Noreen Kokoruda (R–101st District), Elissa Wright (D – 41st District), and Claire Janowski (D – 56th District) were eligible to receive Program grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidates Beth Bye (D – 5th District), Matthew Gaynor (R – 14th District), Ted Kennedy Jr. (D – 12th District), and Art Linares (R – 33rd District) were eligible to receive Program grants.

The CEP 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 districts. Candidates for state senate accomplish this by raising \$15,000 from at least 300 individuals residing in municipalities in their districts. 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.

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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