

# State Elections Enforcement Commission

## Citizens' Election Program



Press Release

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### STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES TWELFTH PUBLIC GRANTS OF SEASON

HARTFORD, CT – August 6, 2014 – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) announced that it will make its twelfth public grant payments under the Citizens’ Election Program (“CEP”) for the November 4, 2014 general election. The Commission determined that state representative candidates Marc Abrams (D – 149<sup>th</sup> District), Michelle Cook (D – 65<sup>th</sup> District), Charles Ferraro (R – 117<sup>th</sup> District), Vicki Nardello (D – 89<sup>th</sup> District), Peggy Sayers (D – 60<sup>th</sup> District), Kurt Vail (R – 52<sup>nd</sup> District), Raymond Vitali (R – 118<sup>th</sup> District) and Christopher Wright (D – 77<sup>th</sup> District) were eligible to receive Program grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidates Paul Doyle (D – 9<sup>th</sup> District) and Rob Kane (R – 32<sup>nd</sup> District) were eligible to receive Program grants. The Commission also determined that Secretary of the State candidate Pjerin “Peter” Lumaj (R) was eligible to receive a Program grant.

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. Candidates for the Secretary of the State accomplish this by raising \$75,000 in contributions, of which \$67,500 must be from individuals residing in the state. 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, general election grant amounts are \$27,850 for state representative candidates and \$94,690 for state senate candidates. Grants for qualified CEP candidates for the Secretary of the State in the general election will be \$812,550.

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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