

State Elections Enforcement Commission

Citizens' Election Program



Press Release

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STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES THIRTEENTH PUBLIC GRANTS OF SEASON

HARTFORD, CT – August 13, 2014 – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) announced that it will make its thirteenth public grant payments under the Citizens’ Election Program (“CEP”) for the November 4, 2014 general election. The Commission determined that state representative candidates Emil Altobello (D – 82nd District), Brenda Kupchick (R – 132nd District), Brandon McGee (D – 5th District), Jesse MacLachlan (R – 35th District), Alden Mead (D – 87th District), Daniel Rovero (D – 51st District), Brian Sear (D – 47th District), Kristen Selleck (D -103rd District), William Simanski (R – 62nd District), William Tong (D – 147th District), Roberta Willis (D – 64th District), Tami Zawistowski (R – 61st District), and Mark Zydanowicz (R – 19th District) were eligible to receive Program grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidates Paul Formica (R – 20th District), Robert Michalik (D – 31st District), and Kevin Witkos (R – 8th District) were eligible to receive Program grants. The Commission also determined that State Treasurer candidate Denise Nappier (D) 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 office of State Treasurer 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 Office of State Treasurer 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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