

State Elections Enforcement Commission

Citizens' Election Program



Press Release

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STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES TWENTIETH PUBLIC GRANTS OF SEASON

HARTFORD, CT – October 1, 2014 – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) announced that it will make its twentieth public grant payments under the Citizens’ Election Program (“CEP”) for the November 4, 2014 general election. The Commission determined that state representative candidates Benjamin Aponte (R – 148th District), Terrence Backer (D – 121st District), Joshua Broekstra (R – 82nd District), Joseph Diminico (D – 13th District), Candace Fay (D – 2nd District), John Frey (R – 111th District), Bob Godfrey (D – 110th District), Henry Hall (D – 138th District), Kathleen McCarty (R – 38th District), Michael Molgano (R – 144th District), Edward Moukawsher (D – 40th District), David Pinney (D – 52nd District), Keith Rodgerson (D – 143rd District), Robert Sanchez (D – 25th District), David Scribner (R – 107th District), Pamela Staneski (R – 119th District), Mark Tweedie (R – 13th District), Edwin Vargas (D – 6th District), and Joseph Verrengia (D – 20th District) were eligible to receive Program grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidates Steven Everett (R – 19th District), Tony Guglielmo (R – 35th District), Eva Maldonado (R – 27th District), Whit Osgood (R – 4th District), and Philip Tripp (R – 17th 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, 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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