

State Elections Enforcement Commission

Citizens' Election Program



Press Release

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STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES TWENTY-FIRST PUBLIC GRANTS OF SEASON

HARTFORD, CT – October 8, 2014 – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) announced that it will make its twenty-first public grant payments under the Citizens’ Election Program (“CEP”) for the November 4, 2014 general election. The Commission determined that state representative candidates Ethan Book (R – 128th District), Ernest Hewett (D – 39th District), Edwin Jutila (D – 37th District), Tom Kienzler (R – 58th District), David Kiner (D – 59th District), Emmett Riley (D – 46th District), Ruben Rodriguez (R – 72nd District), Kevin Ryan (D – 139th District), Joseph Serra (D – 33rd District), Joshua Stanley (R – 109th District), Peter Tercyak (D – 26th District), and Carol Way (R – 133rd District) were eligible to receive Program grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidates Clark Chapin (R – 30th District), John Fonfara (D – 1st District), Joseph Markley (R – 16th District), Donato Orsini (D – 32nd District), William Riiska (D – 30th District), and Phillip Sharlach (D – 26th 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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