

State Elections Enforcement Commission



Press Release

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PUBLIC FINANCING GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR SPECIAL ELECTION IN 53rd HOUSE DISTRICT

HARTFORD, CT – April 23, 2013 – The State Elections Enforcement Commission today announced that public grants will be available under the Citizens' Election Program to candidates in the upcoming special election for the 53rd House District. On April 16, 2013, Representative Bryan Hurlburt announced his resignation, triggering the need for a special election in that district. Under state law, Governor Malloy will have until April 29, 2013 to issue a Writ of Special Election to choose the next representative for the 53rd House District. That special election must be held 46 days after the writ of Special Election is issued. Governor Malloy soon will announce when that the special election will take place. The 53rd House District covers Ashford, Tolland and Willington in eastern Connecticut.

Candidates in this special election will be able to join the Citizens' Election Program and apply for public grants to finance their campaigns. To qualify for public campaign financing, candidates must demonstrate they have adequate support from the public by meeting a two-part test for the aggregate amount of money which must be raised and the minimum number of individuals who must contribute between \$5 and \$100 to the candidate. Candidates will be required to raise at least \$3,750 in qualifying contributions, including contributions from at least 113 individuals residing in municipalities in the 53rd District. Participating candidates may not take funds from state contractors, PACs or other special interests. The full grant amount for fully qualified candidates is \$20,138.

To be eligible to receive public funds, the participating candidates must also qualify to appear on the ballot for the special election. In order to qualify to be on the ballot, candidates must be nominated by their party **or** petitioning candidates must turn in a number of signatures from registered voters in the district equivalent to 1% of the total number of voters who cast ballots for that seat in the previous election. Petitioning candidates have eight days after the Writ of Special Election is issued to turn in signatures to get on the ballot. Any questions about the nominating petition process, including deadlines for submitting nominating petitions, should be directed to the Office of the Secretary of the State (860-509-6100).

Petitioning candidates may be eligible for full or partial Program grants by collecting additional signatures from qualified electors; interested candidates should contact the Commission early in the process for information on how to qualify (860-256-2940).

The bipartisan and independent State Elections Enforcement Commission operates to ensure the integrity of the state's electoral process. Since 2005, the Commission also has been home to the Citizens' Election Program, a groundbreaking effort to publicly finance Connecticut campaigns and restore trust in the electoral process.