

# State Elections Enforcement Commission



## Press Release

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### **PUBLIC FINANCING GRANTS TO BE AVAILABLE FOR JUNE SPECIAL ELECTION**

HARTFORD, CT – April 29, 2013 – With the upcoming Special Election date set for the 53rd House District special election, the State Elections Enforcement Commission has announced that public grants will be available under the Citizens' Election Program to both nominated and petitioning candidates. On April 16, 2013, Representative Bryan Hurlburt announced his resignation from the House of Representatives, triggering the need for a special election in the 53rd House District. On April 26, Governor Malloy issued a Writ of Special Election that set the date for June 11, 2013 for the election to choose the next representative for the 53rd District, which covers Ashford, Tolland and Willington in eastern Connecticut.

Both nominated and petitioning candidates will be able to join the Citizens' Election Program and apply for public grants to finance their campaigns. Participating 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. Partial grants are available for petitioning candidates that gather additional sufficient signatures on their nominating petitions, beyond the number required to qualify for ballot access. A petitioning candidate that collects signatures from electors equaling 10% of the votes cast in the last election would receive a 1/3 grant (\$6,041); 15% receives 2/3 grant (\$12,083); and 20% receives a full grant. The total number of votes cast in the last election was 11,655. Interested candidates should contact the Commission as soon as possible for further information on how to qualify (860-256-2940).

To be eligible to receive public funds, the participating candidates must 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 from April 26th (until May 6th) 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).

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. The bipartisan and independent State Elections Enforcement Commission operates to ensure the integrity of the state's electoral process.