

# State Elections Enforcement Commission

## Citizens' Election Program



Press Release

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### STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES FIRST SPECIAL ELECTION GRANTS

HARTFORD, CT – February 6, 2019 – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) voted at its February 6, 2019 special meeting to approve public grant payments under the Citizens’ Election Program (“CEP”) for candidates in the February 6, 2019 special elections in the 39th and 99th House Districts and in the 3rd, 5th and 6th Senate Districts.

The Commission approved state representative candidates Josh Balter (D – 99<sup>th</sup> District), Kat Goulart (R – 39<sup>th</sup> District), Anthony Nolan (D – 39<sup>th</sup> District) and Joseph Zullo (R – 99<sup>th</sup> District) for special election grants. The Commission also approved state senate candidates Saud Anwar (D – 3<sup>rd</sup> District), Gennaro Bizzarro (R – 6<sup>th</sup> District), Richard Lopes (D – 6<sup>th</sup> District), Sarah Muska (R – 3<sup>rd</sup> District), Derek Slap (D – 5<sup>th</sup> District) and Bill Wadsworth (R – 5<sup>th</sup> District) for special election grants.

The CEP is a voluntary program that allows qualifying candidates for the General Assembly and statewide offices to receive full public financing in regular and special elections. To qualify for public campaign financing, candidates must demonstrate they have adequate support from the public. In special elections, candidates for state representative accomplish this by raising \$3,800 from at least 113 individuals residing in municipalities in their districts. Candidates for state senate accomplish this by raising \$11,500 from at least 225 individuals residing in municipalities in their districts.

Participating candidates may only accept small dollar contributions from certain individuals—the maximum contribution is \$250—and no contributions from state contractors or PACs.

The CEP was designed, in part, to reduce the influence of special interests in state politics. In its eleventh year of providing public funding to General Assembly candidates, the CEP continues to provide a seawall against the rising tide of special interest money in Connecticut elections.

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