

# State Elections Enforcement Commission

## Citizens' Election Program



Press Release

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### STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES FIRST GRANTS OF SEASON

HARTFORD, CT – May 28, 2020 – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) voted at its May 28, 2020 regular meeting to approve public grant payments under the Citizens’ Election Program (“CEP”) for candidates in the August 11, 2020 primary and the November 3, 2020 regular election.

The Commission approved state representative candidates Lou Arata (R - 83<sup>rd</sup> District), Catherine Steel (D – 37<sup>th</sup> District), Mary Welander (D – 114<sup>th</sup> District), and M. Patrizia Zucaro (R – 143<sup>rd</sup> District) to receive CEP grants.

The CEP is a voluntary program which allows qualifying candidates for General Assembly to receive full public financing for their campaigns. To qualify for public campaign financing, candidates must demonstrate that they have substantial support from the public. Candidates for state representative accomplish this by raising \$5,300 from at least 150 individuals residing in municipalities in their districts. Candidates for state senate accomplish this by raising \$16,000 from at least 300 individuals residing in municipalities in their districts. Participating candidates for General Assembly may only accept small dollar contributions from certain individuals—the maximum contribution is \$270—and no contributions from state contractors or PACs. General election grant amounts are up to \$30,575 for state representative candidates and up to \$103,955 for state senate candidates.

The CEP was designed, in part, to reduce the influence of special interests in state politics while encouraging grassroots support of campaigns. In its twelfth 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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