

State Elections Enforcement Commission

Citizens' Election Program



Press Release

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STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES FIFTH GRANTS OF SEASON

HARTFORD, CT – June 24, 2020 – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) voted at its June 24, 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 determined that state representative candidates Raghiv Allie-Brennan (D – 2nd District), Amy Morrin Bello (D – 28th District), Lucy Dathan (D – 142nd District), Jason Doucette (D – 13th District), Kate Farrar (D – 20th District), Charles Ferraro (R – 117th District), Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox (D -123rd District), Stephen Harding (R – 107th District), Stephen Meskers (D – 150th District), David Michel (D – 146th District), Mary Mushinsky (D – 85th District), Tammy Nuccio (R – 53rd District), Matthew Ritter (D – 1st District), Noel Rodriguez (D – 63rd District), Kathleen Stowe (D – 149th District), Donna Veach (R – 30th District), Carla Volpe (D – 134th District), David A. Yaccarino (D – 99th District), and Michele Zommer (D – 69th District) were eligible to receive CEP grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidates Marcus Brown (D – 22nd District), William Haskell (D – 26th District), and George Logan (R – 17th District) were eligible to receive CEP grants.

The CEP is a voluntary program that 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.

For more information please contact Joshua Foley at joshua.foley@ct.gov.