

State Elections Enforcement Commission

Citizens' Election Program



Press Release

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STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES THIRTEENTH GRANTS OF SEASON

HARTFORD, CT – August 19, 2020 – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) voted at its August 19, 2020 regular meeting to approve public grant payments under the Citizens’ Election Program (“CEP”) for candidates in the November 3, 2020 regular election.

The Commission determined that state representative candidates Patrick Callahan (R – 108th District), Jeff Currey (D – 11th District), Anne Dauphinais (R – 44th District), Brian Farnen (R – 132nd District), Matthew Harper (R – 11th District), Greg Howard (R – 43rd District), Joseph Kelly (R – 150th District), Brian Ohler (R – 64th District), Alphonse Paolillo (D – 97th District), Jason Perillo (R – 113th District), Michael Quinn (D – 82nd District), David Rackliffe (R – 79th District), Rosa Rebimbas (R – 70th District), and Jonathan Steinberg (D – 136th District) were eligible to receive CEP grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidate Daniel Champagne (R – 35th District) was eligible to receive a CEP grant.

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.

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