

State Elections Enforcement Commission

Citizens' Election Program



Press Release

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CEP HAS BUSIEST DAY AND WEEK EVER; FIFTEENTH GRANTS OF SEASON AWARDED

HARTFORD, CT – September 2, 2020 – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission” or “SEEC”) voted at its September 2, 2020 regular meeting to approve public grant payments under the Citizens’ Election Program (“CEP”) for candidates in the November 3, 2020 regular election.

Prior to 2018, the highest number of applications at SEEC to arrive in a single day was 13. In 2018, on August 27, prior to the effectuation of the grant reduction schedule passed in P.A. 18-81, 20 applications arrived—a 54% increase from the previous high. This year, on August 24, 39 applications arrived in a single day—a 200% increase from the pre-2018 high. Likewise, the busiest week of 2020 (August 19-26) saw 59 applications arrive, also a 200% increase from pre-2018 levels. In the 12 year history of the CEP, this August saw the busiest day and week ever.

Today, the Commission determined that state representative candidates Stewart Beckett (R – 31st District), William Buckbee (R – 67th District), Kerri Colombo (D – 107th District), Mike France (R – 42nd District), Larry Groh (D – 51st District), John Henrie (D – 41st District), Roland Lemar (D – 96th District), Vincent Mase (D – 86th District), Brian Marois (R – 13th District), Wilson Melon (D – 34th District), Danette Onofrio (D – 108th District), Jeff Sullivan (R – 12th District), and Tony Sutton (D – 117th District) were eligible to receive CEP grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidates Matthew Lesser (D – 9th District), Craig Miner (R – 30th District), and Gary Winfield (D – 10th District) were eligible to receive CEP grants.

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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