

State Elections Enforcement Commission

Citizens' Election Program



Press Release

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STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES EIGHTEENTH GRANTS OF SEASON

HARTFORD, CT – September 22, 2020 – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission” or “SEEC”) voted at its September 21, 2020 special 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 Robert Bell (R – 46th District), Mitch Bolinsky (R – 106th District), Michael DiMassa (D – 116th District), Caleb Espinosa (R – 139th District), Lauren Gauthier (R – 40th District), Anthony Nolan (D – 39th District), Quentin Phipps (D – 100th District), Emmett Riley (D – 46th District), Hilda Santiago (D – 84th District), Dagmara Scalise (D – 81st District), and Christopher Ziogas (D – 79th District) were eligible to receive CEP grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidate Michael Southworth (R – 14th 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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