



## PRESS RELEASE

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

HARTFORD, CT – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) voted at its May 25, 2022 regular meeting to approve public grant payments under the Citizens’ Election Program (“CEP”) for candidates in the November 8, 2022 regular election.

The Commission determined that state representative candidate Jason Buchsbaum (R – 69<sup>th</sup> District) was eligible to receive a CEP grant. The Commission also determined that state senate candidate Julie Kushner (D – 24<sup>th</sup> District) was eligible to receive a CEP grant.

The CEP is a voluntary program that allows qualifying candidates for General Assembly and statewide offices 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 \$5,800 from at least 150 individuals residing in municipalities in their districts. Candidates for state senate accomplish this by raising \$17,300 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 \$290—and no contributions from state contractors or PACs. General election grant amounts are up to \$33,175 for state representative candidates and up to \$112,795 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 fourteenth 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.