



PRESS RELEASE

STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES SEVENTH GRANTS OF SEASON

HARTFORD, CT – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) voted at its July 6, 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 candidates Hector Arzeno (D – 151st District), Aimee Berger-Girvalo (D – 111th District), Robin Comey (D – 102nd District), Patricia Dillon (D – 92nd District), Irene Haines (R – 34th District), Jane Garibay (D – 60th District), Maryam Khan (D – 5th District), Meghan McCloat (R – 134th District), Corey Paris (D – 145th District), Christopher Turkington (R – 36th District), and Eric Wellman (D – 16th District) were eligible to receive CEP grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidate Michelle Coelho (R – 24th District) was eligible to receive a CEP grant. Statewide candidates Dita Bhargava (D – State Treasurer) and Stephanie Thomas (D – Secretary of the State) were also determined eligible to receive grants.

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 in contributions from individuals, with at least 150 coming from individuals residing in municipalities in their districts. Candidates for state senate accomplish this by raising \$17,300, with at least 300 coming from individuals residing in municipalities in their districts. Candidates for State Treasurer and Secretary of the State must raise \$86,600 in small dollar contributions of which \$78,000 must come from in-state contributors. Participating candidates 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. For statewide candidates (other than Governor), grant amounts are up to \$484,125 for candidates in primaries and up to \$968,250 for candidates in the general election.

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, and its twelfth for statewide candidates, the CEP continues to provide a seawall against the rising tide of special interest money in Connecticut elections and a critical, ongoing effort to restore the public’s trust in the institutions of democratic governance.