



PRESS RELEASE

STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION AWARDS FIFTEENTH GRANTS OF SEASON

HARTFORD, CT – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) voted at its August 24, 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 Ashley Gillece (D – 43rd District), Carol Hall (R – 59th District), Mary Ann Hansen (D – 8th District), Robert Hebert (R – 111th District), Kerry Lentz (R – 85th District), David Nowakowski (D – 47th District), and Derell Wilson (D – 46th District) were eligible to receive CEP grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidates Kevin Kelly (R – 21st District), John Kissel (R – 7th District), and Kim-Marie Mullin (R – 14th District) were eligible to receive CEP 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. 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.

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.