



PRESS RELEASE

STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION AWARDS SIXTEENTH GRANTS OF SEASON

HARTFORD, CT – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) voted at its August 31, 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 Daniel Cowan (R – 114th District), Michael Demicco (D – 21st District), Richard DiNardo (R – 98th District), Sharon Farmer (D – 76th District), Jamie Foster (D – 57th District), Daniel Fox (D – 148th District), Aaron Haley (R – 116th District), Nicole Hampton (R – 143rd District), Jim Irwin (D – 61st District), Susan Johnson (D – 49th District), Mary Mushinsky (D – 85th District), Alphonse Paolillo (D – 97th District), William Pizzuto (R – 71st District), David Randall (D – 44th District), Donna Veach (R – 30th District), and Joseph Zullo (R – 99th 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.