



PRESS RELEASE

STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION AWARDS NINETEENTH GRANTS OF SEASON

HARTFORD, CT – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) voted at its September 14, 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 Raghiv Allie-Brennan (D – 2nd District), Thomas Arnone (D – 58th District), Francis Cooley (R – 22nd District), Henry Genga (D – 10th District), Matthew Lauf (R – 9th District), Jeffrey Parkin (R – 118th District), Kadeem Roberts (D – 137th District), Bobby Sanchez (D – 25th District), Manny Sanchez (D – 24th District), and Peter Sherr (R – 151st District) were eligible to receive CEP grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidates Jorge Cabrera (D – 17th District), Jeffery Desmarais (D – 32nd District), Matt Lesser (D – 9th District) and Gary Winfield (D – 10th 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.