



PRESS RELEASE

STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION AWARDS EIGHTEENTH GRANTS OF SEASON

HARTFORD, CT – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) voted at its September 8, 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 Gregory Burnes (R – 121st District), Brandon Chafee (D – 33rd District), Jeff Currey (D – 11th District), Gregg Dafoe (D – 52nd District), Matt Dyer (D – 66th District), Paul Edwards (R – 24th District), Joshua Elliot (D – 88th District), Jack Fazzino (D – 83rd District), Brian Lanoue (R – 45th District), Roland Lemar (D – 96th District), Christine Maine (D – 51st District), Kathleen McCarty (R – 38th District), Ben McGorty (R – 122nd District), Jason Perillo (R – 113th District), Abigail Pizarro (R – 73rd District), Michael Quinn (D – 82nd District), Alexandra Thomas (D – 67th District), and Edwin Vargas (D – 6th District) were eligible to receive CEP grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidate Cynthia Mangini (D – 7th 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 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.