



PRESS RELEASE

June 12, 2024

STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES FOURTH CEP GRANTS OF THE 2024 ELECTION SEASON

HARTFORD, CT – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) voted at its June 12, 2024 regular meeting to approve public grant payments under the Citizens’ Election Program (“CEP”) for candidates in the August 13, 2024 primary and the November 5, 2024 general election.

The Commission determined that state representative candidates Amy Morrin Bello (D – 28th District), Christie Carpino (R – 32nd District), Jay Case (R – 63rd District), Katherine Courpas (R – 149th District), Laura Dancho (R – 120th District), Edward Edelson (D – 69th District), Nicholas Gauthier (D – 38th District), Ray Ingraham (R – 102nd District), Melissa Osborne (D – 16th District), Cara Pavalock-D’Amato (R – 77th District), Karen Reddington-Hughes (R – 66th District), Christopher Rosario (D – 128th District), Kevin Ryan (D – 139th District), Farley Santos (D – 109th District), Cristin McCarthy Vahey (D – 133rd District), and Tami Zawistowski (R – 61st District) were eligible to receive CEP grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidates Cecilia Maher (D – 26th District) and Heather Somers (R – 18th 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 from at least 150 individuals residing in municipalities in their districts. Candidates for state senate accomplish this by raising \$17,300 from at least 300 individuals residing in municipalities in their districts. Participating candidates for General Assembly may only accept small dollar contributions from certain individuals—the maximum contribution is \$320—and no contributions from state contractors or PACs. The full general election grant amount for a state representative candidate is \$36,500. The full general election grant amount for a state senate candidate is \$124,100.

The CEP was designed, in part, to reduce the influence of special interests in state politics while encouraging grassroots support of campaigns. In its sixteenth year of providing public funding to General Assembly candidates, the landmark public financing program continues to provide a seawall against the rising tide of special interest money in Connecticut elections.