



PRESS RELEASE

September 11, 2024

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

HARTFORD, CT – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) voted at its September 11, 2024 regular meeting to approve public grant payments under the Citizens’ Election Program (“CEP”) for candidates in the November 5, 2024 general election.

The Commission determined that state representative candidates Paul Cappiali (R – 150th District), Dominique Johnson (D – 143rd District), Jeffrey Litke (D – 70th District), Mark Macchio (R – 118th District), Austin Monteiro (R – 110th District), David Spruance (D – 47th District), Steven Stafstrom (D – 129th District), Christopher Tierinni (R – 10th District), Kurt Vail (R – 52nd District), Mary Welander (D – 114th District), and Joseph Zullo (R – 99th District) were eligible to receive CEP grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidate Elain Cariati (R – 13th District), Jason Guidone (R – 9th District) and Steven Johnstone (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 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.