



PRESS RELEASE

June 10, 2026

STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION AWARDS THIRD 2026 GENERAL ELECTION CEP GRANTS

HARTFORD, CT – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) voted at its June 10, 2026 regular meeting to approve public grant payments under the Citizens’ Election Program (“CEP”) for candidates in the August 11, 2026 primary and November 3, 2026 general election.

The Commission determined that state representative candidates Kimberly Becker (D – 62nd District), Jay Case (R – 63rd District), Raymond Collins (R – 117th District), Robin Comey (D – 102nd District), Tina Courpas (R – 149th District), Patricia Dillon (D – 92nd District), John Foley (R – 38th District), Nick Gauthier (D – 38th District), Joseph Gresko (D – 121st District), Barbara Labriola (R – 23rd District), Antonia Lombardi (D – 118th District), Gale Mastrofrancesco (R – 80th District), Tammy Nuccio (R – 53rd District), Angie Parkinson (D – 10th District), Ellen Paul (D – 55th District), Larry Pemberton (D – 139th District), William Pizzuto (R – 71st District), Joe Polletta (R – 68th District), Karen Reddington-Hughes (R – 66th District), Geraldo Reyes (D – 75th District), Christopher Rosario (D – 128th District), Kaitlyn Shake (D – 120th District), Steven Stafstrom (D – 129th District), Cheryl Thibeault (R – 79th District), Jamie Vaughan (R – 25th District), Anne Weisberg (D – 108th District), and Melissa Ziobron (R – 34th District) were eligible to receive CEP grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidates Eric Berthel (R – 32nd District), Joseph de la Cruz (D – 18th District), Jason Guidone (R – 19th District), and Heather Somers (R – 18th District) were eligible to receive CEP grants.

The CEP is a voluntary public financing program designed to help candidates for the General Assembly and statewide Constitutional offices run competitive campaigns without relying on large private contributors. To participate, candidates must demonstrate that they have substantial local support from the public by raising small-dollar contributions from individuals.

- Candidates for state representative accomplish this by raising \$6,700 in contributions from individuals, with at least 150 coming from individuals residing in municipalities in their districts.
- Candidates for state senate must raise \$20,100 in contributions from individuals, with at least 300 coming from individuals residing in municipalities in their districts.
- Candidates for Attorney General, Secretary of the State, State Comptroller, and State Treasurer must raise \$100,700 in small dollar contributions of which \$90,600 must come from in-state contributors.

Participating candidates may only accept small dollar contributions from certain individuals—the maximum contribution is \$340—and no contributions from state contractors or PACs. Once qualified, candidates may no longer fundraise but are eligible for substantial public grants:

- For state representative candidates, up to \$38,575;
- For state senate candidates, up to \$131,155; and
- For statewide candidates (other than Governor), up to \$562,875 for primaries and up to \$1,125,750 for the general election.

In addition to reducing the opportunity for corruption, the public financing program allows ordinary citizens to run for office by reducing reliance on special interests, fostering cleaner, more representative elections.