



PRESS RELEASE

June 17, 2026

STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION AWARDS FOURTH 2026 GENERAL ELECTION CEP GRANTS

HARTFORD, CT – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) voted at its June 17, 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 Hector Arzeno (D – 151st District), Seth Bronko (R – 70th District), Samuel Carmody (D – 85th District), Christie Carpino (R – 32nd District), Anne Dauphinais (R – 44th District), Jason Doucette (D – 13th District), Kate Farrar (D – 20th District), Maria Horn (D – 64th District), Joe Lauretto (R – 113th District), Cinzia Lettieri (D – 35th District), Ben McGorty (R – 122nd District), Nick Menapace (D – 37th District), Steve Meskers (D – 150th District), Olaleye Onikuyide (D – 19th District), Marcus Palumbo (D – 47th District), Kara Rochelle (D – 104th District), Gary Turco, Jr (D – 27th District), Kerry Wood (D – 29th District), and Jane Wisialowski (D – 23rd District) were eligible to receive CEP grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidates Bob Duff (D – 25th District), Jack Fazzino (D – 13th District), Jeffrey Gordon (R – 35th District), Paul Honig (D – 8th District), Jim Jinks (D – 13th District), Martha Marx (D – 20th District), and Ayana Taylor (D – 2nd 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.