



PRESS RELEASE

June 25, 2026

STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION AWARDS FIFTH 2026 GENERAL ELECTION CEP GRANTS

HARTFORD, CT – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) voted at its June 25, 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 Harrison Amadasun (D – 14th District), Aundre Bumgardner (D – 41st District), Patrick Callahan (R – 108th District), Moise Carelus (D – 31st District), Michelle Embree Ku (D – 106th District), Craig Fishbein (R – 90th District), Martin Foncello (R – 107th District), Daniel Gaiewski (D – 40th District), Jane Garibay (D – 60th District), Tyron Harris (D – 10th District), Arnold Jensen (R – 131st District), Eleni Kavros DeGraw (D – 17th District), Liz Linehan (D – 103rd District), Suzanne Lovig (D – 66th District), Karen Martin (D – 99th District), Bill Mecca (D – 123rd District), Moira Rader (D – 98th District), Eli Sabin (D – 92nd District), Christopher Saley (D – 118th District), Tony Scott (R – 112th District), Michael Shannon (D – 117th District), Donna Veach (R – 30th District), Steven Visconti (R – 118th District), and Lezlye Zupkus (R – 89th District) were eligible to receive CEP grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidates Michael Criss (R – 8th District) and Douglas McCrory (D – 2nd District) were eligible to receive CEP grants. Statewide candidate Peter Lumaj (R – Secretary of the State) was also determined to be eligible for a grant.

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.