



PRESS RELEASE

July 1, 2026

STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION AWARDS SIXTH 2026 GENERAL ELECTION CEP GRANTS

HARTFORD, CT – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) voted at its July 1, 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 Kevin Brown (D – 56th District), Joseph Canino (R – 65th District), Justin Farmer (D – 92nd District), Bob Ham (R – 83rd District), William Heughins (D – 43rd District), Kathy Kennedy (R – 119th District), Nicole Klarides Ditria (R – 105th District), Richard Leborious (D – 59th District), Francis Lombard (D – 8th District), Leland Moore (D – 97th District), Deborah Rizzo (R – 2nd District), Anne Santoro (R – 37th District), Meredith Tobitsch (D – 125th District), Cristin McCarthy Vahey (D – 133rd District), and Andrew Ziemba (R – 17th District) were eligible to receive CEP grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidate Henri Martin (R – 31st District) was eligible to receive a CEP 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.