



PRESS RELEASE

July 9, 2026

STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION AWARDS SEVENTH 2026 GENERAL ELECTION CEP GRANTS

HARTFORD, CT – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) voted at its July 9, 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 Wildaliz Bermudez (D – 97th District), Mitch Bolinsky (R – 106th District), Kevin Brown (D – 56th District), David DeFronzo (D – 26th District), David Fritz (D – 90th District), Jennifer Leeper (D – 132nd District), Tiffani McGinnis (D – 18th District), Cara Pavalock-D’Amato (R – 77th District), Vincent Tocci (D – 52nd District), Stephen Weir (R – 55th District) and Jeffrey Weiss (R – 103rd District) were eligible to receive CEP grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidates Stephen Harding (R – 30th District), Maryam Khan (D – 2nd District), Julie Kushner (D – 24th District) and Jason Perillo (R – 21st District) were eligible to receive CEP grants. Statewide candidate Joshua Elliott (D - Governor) was also determined to be eligible to receive 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.
- Candidates for Governor must raise \$335,500 in small dollar contributions of which \$302,000 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.
- For gubernatorial candidates, up to \$3,750,355 for primary candidates that did not receive a convention campaign grant and up to \$18,001,704 for the general election candidates.