



PRESS RELEASE

July 15, 2026

STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION AWARDS EIGHTH 2026 GENERAL ELECTION CEP GRANTS

HARTFORD, CT – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) voted at its July 15, 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 Samantha Derenthal (D – 44th District), Antony DiLizia (D – 31st District), Faithalee Gocłowski (R – 75th District), Ollie Gray (R – 74th District) and Sal Simsek (R – 26th District) were eligible to receive CEP grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidates Christine Cohen (D – 12th District), Joseph Kelly (R – 36th District), Amybeth Laroche (R – 28th District), Brandi Mandato (D – 34th District), James Maroney (D – 14th District) and Ethan Werstler (D – 35th 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 Lieutenant Governor, 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.