



PRESS RELEASE

August 26, 2026

STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION AWARDS FOURTEENTH 2026 GENERAL ELECTION CEP GRANTS

HARTFORD, CT – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) voted at its August 26, 2026 regular meeting to approve public grant payments under the Citizens’ Election Program (“CEP”) for candidates in the November 3, 2026 general election.

The Commission determined that state representative candidates Larry Butler (D – 72nd District), Matthew Danieluk (D – 45th District), Robert Fernandez (D – 48th District), Gregory Haddad (D – 54th District), Emily Hau (R – 132nd District), Thaler Hefel (R – 41st District), Jonathan Jacobson (D – 148th District), Susan Johnson (D – 49th District), Julie Kerton (D – 107th District), Jeffrey Litke (D – 70th District), John Parker (D – 101st District), Kadeem Roberts (D – 137th District), Nicole Roscoe (R – 6th District), Heather Stafford (D – 131st District), Kurt Vail (R – 52nd District), Mary Welander (D – 114th District), and Derell Wilson (D – 46th District) were eligible to receive CEP grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidates Lisa Deane (R – 12th District) and Matthew Lesser (D – 9th 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.

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 2005, Connecticut enacted the CEP in response to public outcry over several high-profile corruption scandals involving state elected officials. 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.