



PRESS RELEASE

September 2, 2026

STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION AWARDS FIFTEENTH 2026 GENERAL ELECTION CEP GRANTS

HARTFORD, CT – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) voted at its September 2, 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 Anthony Acri (R – 97th District), Alex Armstrong (D – 119th District), Kai Juanna Belton (D – 100th District), Nate Brown (D – 78th District), Brandon Chafee (D – 33rd District), Blake Consentino (R – 111th District), Jennifer Davis (D – 76th District), Salema Davis (R – 11th District), Hubert Delany (D – 144th District), Irving Fox (R – 138th District), Troy Gargiulo (R – 120th District), Richard Mette (R – 22nd District), Anthony Rongetti (R – 110th District), Isabelle Roode (R – 40th District), Iris Sanchez (D – 25th District), Manny Sanchez (D – 24th District), Andrew Tedford (R – 56th District), Guy Tuccero (R – 36th District), Philip Tummescheit (R – 18th District), and DeWayne Wynn (D – 77th District) were eligible to receive CEP grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidates John-Paul Dorais (R – 17th District), Lee Elci (R – 20th District), Mae Flexer (D – 29th District), Laurel LaPorte-Grimes (D – 31st District), Melissa Lindsey (R – 24th District), Rick Lopes (D – 6th District), and Justin Perry (R – 25th 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; and
- For state senate candidates, up to \$131,155.

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.