STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

October 15, 2026

STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION AWARDS TWENTY-FIRST 2026 GENERAL ELECTION CEP GRANTS

HARTFORD, CT – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the "Commission") voted at its October 15, 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 Antonio Felipe (D – 130th District) and Gary Palumbo (R – 21st 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.

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.

Press Contact: Joshua Foley **Tel.** 860-256-2962 **Email:** joshua.foley@ct.gov