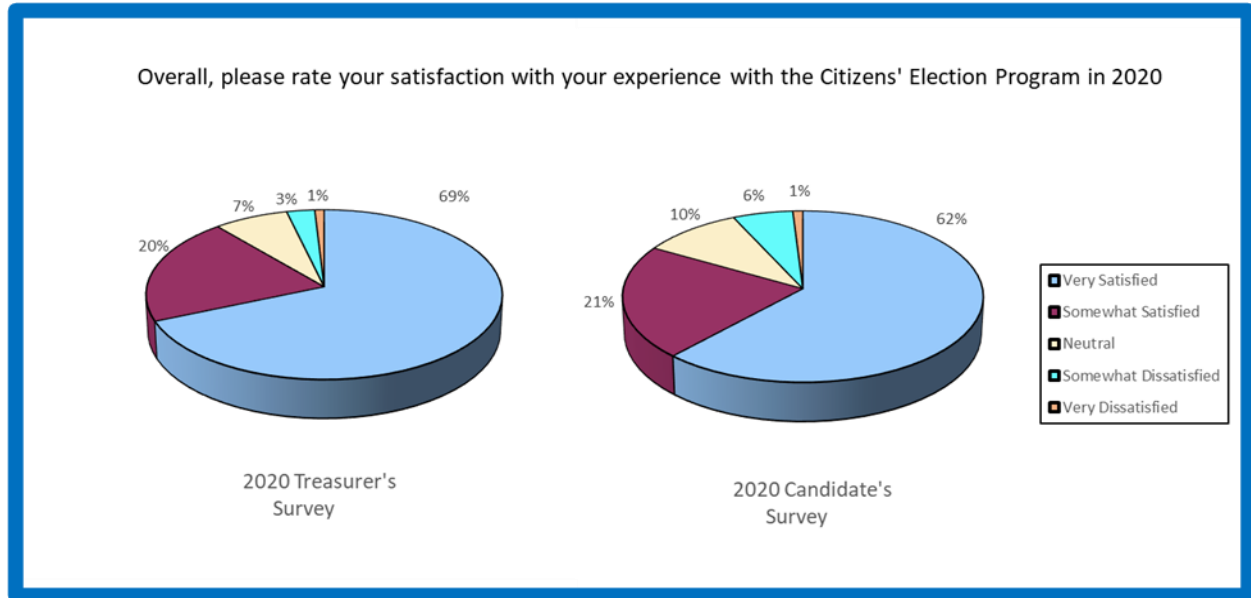


# Survey Results for 2020 Participating CEP Candidates and Treasurers

HARTFORD, CT – January 6, 2022 – Since the beginning of the Citizens’ Election Program (“CEP”), the State Elections Enforcement Commission has conducted post-election surveys of participating candidates, treasurers and deputy treasurers to measure our effectiveness in administering the CEP. After the 2020 election, we again conducted a survey to provide an opportunity for candidates, treasurers and deputy treasurers to give us feedback on the various aspects of the CEP as well as make suggestions for improvement. Every year we review these suggestions as well as the post-election review materials and look for ways to further support treasurers. Overall, candidate satisfaction and treasurer satisfaction with the CEP continues to be high: 84% of candidates and 89% of treasurers were pleased with their experience using the Program.



## Other takeaways:

- 92% of candidates and 98% of treasurers who contacted SEEC strongly or somewhat agreed that their questions were answered in a timely manner.
- 83% of candidates strongly or somewhat agreed that accepting only small contributions from individuals is a good way to involve more Connecticut citizens in politics.
- 79% of candidates strongly or somewhat agreed that participation in the CEP reduced the appearance that they were beholden to large donors or “special interests.”
- 76 % of candidates strongly or somewhat agreed that by accepting public funds this election cycle, they were able to spend more time discussing issues and concerns with their constituents and less time fund-raising.
- 86% of candidates strongly or somewhat agreed that public financing provided them the opportunity to compete for elected office without reliance on personal wealth or large dollar donors.

The CEP was designed, in part, to reduce corruption and the influence of special interests in state politics while encouraging grassroots support of campaigns. In its thirteenth year of providing public funding to General Assembly candidates, the CEP continues to provide a seawall against the rising tide of special interest money in Connecticut elections.

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