



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

**State Elections Enforcement Commission Announces First Public Grant Payment
from the State of Connecticut's Landmark Citizens' Election Program**

September 12, 2007

The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the "Commission") today announced the first public grant payment to a qualifying candidate, Jason D. Perillo (R), for the October 9, 2007 Special Election for the 113th General Assembly District. The Commission determined that the Perillo campaign qualified for a grant payment of \$18,750.

The Commission is administering the first-ever run of the landmark public campaign finance program, known as the Citizens' Election Program (the "Program"), in connection with the Special Election in District 113. Both nominated candidates—Republican candidate Jason D. Perillo and Democratic candidate James Oraziotti—are participating in the Program. Beth A. Rotman, the Commission's Director of Public Campaign Financing, said today: "The Special Election has been a great test of our new Program, and I am very pleased that the Perillo campaign has already qualified for a grant. The Commission's staff will continue to work closely with both campaigns."

The Special Election was called by Governor M. Jodi Rell after the death of longtime State Representative Richard O. Belden. The Commission's Executive Director, Jeffrey B. Garfield said "It is unfortunate that the first test of this model program, heralded by campaign finance experts as the strongest in the United States, was occasioned by the death of Rep. Belden, a true statesman, who has so ably served the people of the 113th District in Shelton for more than three decades." Mr. Garfield congratulated the Perillo campaign after the Commission voted to issue the first-ever grant.

The Citizens' Election Program is a voluntary program which provides full public financing to qualified candidates for Statewide offices and the General Assembly. The Program was designed to encourage citizen participation and limit the role of private money in the State of Connecticut's political process. Candidates running for the General Assembly in any special election or regular election may join the Program. Beginning in 2010, candidates for the office of Governor or other Statewide office will similarly be eligible to participate in the Program.

To qualify for public financing, candidates must demonstrate they have adequate support from the public. Candidates for State Representative may accomplish this by meeting a two-part “threshold” that sets requirements for the aggregate amount of money which must be raised and the minimum number of individuals who must have contributed between five dollars to one hundred dollars to the candidate. Qualifying contributions are small monetary contributions not exceeding one hundred dollars from individuals, and do not include in-kind contributions, personal funds, or loans. Candidates for State Representative in the 113th District Special Election must raise a total of \$3,750 in qualifying contributions, including contributions from at least 113 individuals residing in Shelton, Connecticut. A participating candidate whose grant application is approved by the Commission may receive an initial grant of up to \$18,750. A participating candidate facing a high-spending opponent not participating in the Program may be eligible to receive supplemental grant money.

Additional information about the Citizens’ Election Program may be found at the Commission’s website, available at < <http://www.ct.gov/seec/>>.