



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 Public Grant Payment from
the State of Connecticut's Landmark Citizens' Election Program**

September 25, 2007

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

The Citizens' Election Program (the "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, to curb excessive expenditures in campaigns, to limit the role of private money, and to create a more level playing field in the State of Connecticut's political process. So, I am very pleased that both candidates in the Special Election chose to participate in the Program and qualified for grants in such a short time-frame." Beth A. Rotman, the Commission's Director of Public Campaign Financing, commented today.

The Commission is administering the first-ever run of the Program, in connection with the Special Election in District 113. Both nominated candidates—Republican candidate Jason D. Perillo and Democratic candidate James Orazietti—are participating in the Program and have received grant payments.

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/>>.

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