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**STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION SEES INCREASE
IN THE NUMBER OF PRIMARIES SINCE 2006 AND AWARDS FINAL PRIMARY
ELECTION GRANTS**

HARTFORD, CT, July 24, 2008 – Today's State Election Enforcement Commission meeting was the last in which candidates participating in the August 12th primary could receive grants from the Citizen's Election Program. There are twenty primaries for state legislative races --- four Senate and sixteen for House of Representatives. This is almost a two-fold increase in the number of primaries from 2006.

Of the forty-two candidates participating in the August 12th primary, thirty-seven have chosen to participate in the Citizens' Election Program. Thirty-four have applied for and received primary election grants.

At the July 23rd Commission meeting twenty-seven public grants from the Citizens' Election Fund were awarded. The following candidates received grants at yesterday's meeting: Raymond Kalinowski, Tom Christiano, Ezequiel Santiago, Clifton Thompson, Kathy Hale, Carlos Silva, Henry Genga, Terry Backer, Lydia Martinez, Carmen Sierra, Russell Morin, Sylvester Salcedo, Edwin Vargas, Thomas Harrison, Anthony Musto, Marilyn Giuliano, Jose Rivera, Kevin Witkos, Karen Houghtaling, Christopher Caruso, John Fonfara, Moira Wertheimer, Duane Perkins, Marilyn Moore, Gary Winfield and Hector Robles. At today's Commission meeting grants were awarded to Marie Kirkley-Bey and Charles Blango.

Sixteen candidates for State Senate and sixty-six candidates for State Representatives have received grants from the Citizens' Election Program for the 2008 General Assembly election cycle.

For more information please contact Nancy S. Nicolescu, Director of Communications, Legislative Affairs and Candidate Services for the State Elections Enforcement Commission at nancy.nicolescu@ct.gov.

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