STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
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NEWS RELEASE

Commission Announces Second Public Grant Payment from Connecticut's Landmark Citizens' Election Program in 32nd Senatorial District Special Election

The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the "Commission") today announced that a public grant payment under the Citizens' Election Program (the "Program") will be made to Kenneth Curran, the Democratic candidate for State Senate in the January 15, 2008 Special Election for the 32nd Senatorial District. The Commission determined that the Curran campaign qualified for a grant payment of $63,750. Two weeks earlier, the Commission approved a similar grant payment to Robert J. Kane, the Republican candidate opposing Mr. Curran in the same special election. The Program is a voluntary program which provides full public financing to qualified candidates for statewide offices and the General Assembly.

In announcing the Commission's action, its Executive Director, Jeffrey B. Garfield said, "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 election campaign process. This is the second special election covered by the Program in which candidates from both major parties have again elected to participate and have qualified for public campaign funds." Garfield added, "This is a very positive sign that the Program is working, and will increase the competitiveness of Connecticut elections, and allow those individuals without ties to wealthy and special interests to run for the General Assembly."

To qualify for public campaign financing, candidates must demonstrate they have adequate support from the public. Candidates for State Senator 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 $5 and $100 to the candidate. Participating candidates may not take funds from lobbyists, state contractors or PACs. Both candidates for State Senator in the 32nd District Special Election raised a total of $11,250 in qualifying contributions, including contributions from at least 225 individuals residing in municipalities in the 32nd District.

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