

State Elections Enforcement Commission

Citizens' Election Program



Press Release

Press Contact:
Joshua Foley
860-256-2962

STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES VOLUNTARY INTERIM FILINGS FOR CANDIDATES PARTICIPATING IN THE CITIZENS' ELECTION PROGRAM

HARTFORD, CT—May 25, 2012. The State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) announced the success of its new Voluntary Interim Filing program for candidates participating in the Citizens' Election Program (CEP). This program allows candidates participating in the CEP to track their progress collecting qualifying contributions and better prepare their grant applications. The new voluntary interim filings allow interested candidate committees to voluntarily submit one or two disclosure statements—one in May and one in June—that allow for a preliminary review of the collected qualifying contributions. The feedback provided by SEEC audit staff will let the committees know, in advance of their grant applications, which contributions likely will be deemed qualifying, so that candidates have a better sense of how many more contributions they will need to collect. In addition, this preliminary review will identify any mistakes that the committee may have made in reporting or documenting contributions, so that they will have more time to correct them.

“These early filings and interim filings give committees a leg up in the application process and will allow our staff to process the grant applications as swiftly as possible,” said Michael J. Brandi, Executive Director of the SEEC. “The Program needs to continually innovate, especially in light of our strained State resources. We’re always looking for ways to improve the CEP, which is already a model public financing program.”

In the past, the Commission has found that taking advantage of early review at the quarterly filing deadlines greatly increased a committee’s likelihood of avoiding grant application continuances and delays in the release of grant monies. The SEEC strongly urges committees to take this opportunity for early feedback. The SEEC will continue to accept interim filings through early June.

Between the April 10 quarterly filing and the new May interim filings, more than 60 committees have already opted to voluntarily submit their qualifying contribution documentation for early review by the SEEC’s audit staff. Overall, more than 100 committees have already affirmed that they are joining the Program for its third general election cycle.

The CEP is a revolutionary program that allows qualifying candidates for General Assembly to receive full public financing for their campaigns. To qualify for the Program, a candidate must forego large contributions and special interest money, and only raise small contributions from individuals, most of whom live within the candidate’s district, and adhere to campaign spending limits and other restrictions.

For more information please contact Joshua Foley at joshua.foley@ct.gov.