

# State Elections Enforcement Commission

## Citizens' Election Program



Press Release

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### **COMMISSION AWARDS SIX PUBLIC FINANCING GRANTS TO PARTICIPATING CEP CANDIDATES**

HARTFORD, CT – June 27, 2012 – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) today awarded six more public grant payments under the Citizens’ Election Program (the “Program” or “CEP”) for the upcoming August primaries and November election. The Commission determined that state representative candidates Susan Brand (D – 132<sup>nd</sup> District), Christie Carpino (R – 32<sup>nd</sup> District), Auden Grogins (D – 129<sup>th</sup> District), John Hampton (D – 16<sup>th</sup> District), Cheryl Lounsbury (R- 81<sup>st</sup> District), and Stephen Walko (R – 150<sup>th</sup> District) were eligible to receive Program grants. No grants were awarded to state senate candidates this week.

Grant amounts vary. Typically, primary grant amounts are \$10,740 for state representative candidates and \$37,590 for state senate candidates, but amounts are higher if the candidates run in districts where one major party has a large advantage in the number of electors registered with that party. In most races, general election grant amounts are \$26,850 for state representative candidates and \$91,290 for state senate candidates.

The Citizens’ Election Program is a revolutionary program that allows qualifying candidates for the General Assembly to receive full public financing. To qualify for public financing, candidates must demonstrate they have sufficient support from their constituents. Participating candidates may only accept small dollar contributions from individual human beings—the maximum contribution is \$100—and no contributions from state contractors, PACs, unions or corporations. The CEP was designed, in part, to reduce the influence of special interests in state politics, and it has done so to a remarkable degree in just two full election cycles. As the SEEC, struggling with staff reductions, begins its third cycle of administering the voluntary Program, the CEP continues to provide a seawall against the rising tide of special interest money in today’s elections.

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