State Elections Enforcement Commission
Citizens' Election Program

Press Release

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COMMISSION AWARDS TWELVE PUBLIC FINANCING GRANTS TO PARTICIPATING CEP CANDIDATES

HARTFORD, CT – August 1, 2012 – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the "Commission") today awarded twelve more public grant payments under the Citizens' Election Program (the "Program" or "CEP") for the upcoming November election. The Commission determined that state representative candidates Kim Rose (D – 118th District), Michael Demicco (D– 21st District), Andrew Lavery (R – 40th District), Lori Nicolson (R–102nd District), Peggy Sayers (D –60th District), Thomas "Chip" Flanagan (D – 31st District), Jonathan Steinberg (D – 136th District), Ted Hoffstatter (D—143rd District) and Roland Lemar (D –96th District), were eligible to receive Program grants. State senate candidates Beth Bye (D – 5th District), David Roche (D – 31st District) and Art Linares (R – 33rd District) were also determined to be eligible to receive a Program grant.

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.

Grant amounts vary. Typically, general election grant amounts are $26,850 for state representative candidates and $91,290 for state senate candidates.

This is the third election cycle in which General Assembly candidates can use the public financing program. In 2010, approximately 70 percent of the total number of candidates elected to participate in the Program. To date, 74 percent of sitting legislators have come to office using the Program. All of the candidates currently elected to statewide offices participated in the voluntary Program.

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