

State Elections Enforcement Commission

Citizens' Election Program



Press Release

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COMMISSION AWARDS ELEVEN PUBLIC FINANCING GRANTS TO PARTICIPATING CEP CANDIDATES

HARTFORD, CT – August 8, 2012 – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) today awarded eleven 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 David Pena (D – 17th District), Vincent Pacileo (R – 36th District), Elissa Wright (D – 41st District), David Kiner (D – 59th District), Michelle Cook (D – 65th District), David Zoni (D – 81st District), Vickie Nardello (D – 89th District), Chris DeSanctis (R – 133rd District), and Gerald M. Fox (D – 146th District) were eligible to receive Program grants. State senate candidates Toni Boucher (R – 26th District) and Carolanne Curry (D – 26th District), were also determined to be eligible to receive Program grants.

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. In most races, general election grant amounts are \$26,850 for state representative candidates and \$91,290 for state senate candidates.

For more information please contact the Commission’s Compliance division at seec.compliance@ct.gov