

State Elections Enforcement Commission

Citizens' Election Program



Press Release

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COMMISSION AWARDS EIGHTEEN PUBLIC FINANCING GRANTS TO PARTICIPATING CEP CANDIDATES

HARTFORD, CT – September 19, 2012 – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) today awarded eighteen more public grant payments under the Citizens’ Election Program (the “Program” or “CEP”) for the upcoming November 6 election. The Commission determined that state representative candidates Mary Alford (R – 79th District), John Alseph (R – 75th District), Mitch Bolinsky (R – 106th District), Joe Bosco (R – 59th District), Mike France (R – 42nd District), Claire Janowski (D – 56th District), Deborah Kleckowski (R – 100th District), Arthur O’Neill (R – 69th District), Thomas Sirard (R – 58th District), Michael Stango (R – 72nd District), and Joseph Verrengia (D – 20th District) were eligible to receive Program grants. State senate candidates Jason Bartlett (D – 24th District), Christopher Coutu (R – 19th District), Joseph Crisco (D – 17th District), John Mazurek (D – 16th District), Anthony Musto (D – 22nd District), Daniel Seger (D – 8th District), and Kevin Witkos (R – 8th District) were also determined to be eligible to receive Program grants.

The final deadline for participation in the CEP and becoming eligible to receive a Program grant is approaching fast. Candidates have until September 27 to file their Affidavit of Intent to Abide by Expenditure Limits and Other Program Requirements (SEEC Form CEP 10). The final deadline for grant applications is Friday, October 12. Only candidates who have filed their Form 10 by September 27, however, will be eligible to apply for a grant. The Commission strongly encourages candidates to file soon.

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.

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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