

State Elections Enforcement Commission

Citizens' Election Program



Press Release

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COMMISSION AWARDS SIXTEEN PUBLIC FINANCING GRANTS TO PARTICIPATING CEP CANDIDATES

HARTFORD, CT – October 3, 2012 – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) today awarded sixteen 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 Timothy Bowles (D – 42nd District), John Console (R – 28th District), Steven Demoura (D – 2nd District), Andrew Grossman (D – 67th District), Ernest Hewett (D – 39th District), Bryan Hurlburt (D – 53rd District), Aldon Hynes (D – 114th District), Susan Johnson (D – 49th District), Elizabeth Linehan (D – 103rd District), Michael Molgano (R – 144th District), Joseph Serra (D – 33rd District), William Tong (D – 147th District), and Francky Trofort (R – 145th District) were eligible to receive Program grants. State senate candidates Carlo Leone (D – 27th District), Cheri Pelletier (R – 4th District) and Sarah White (R – 29th District) were also determined to be eligible to receive Program grants.

The final deadline for grant applications is fast approaching. Candidates have until 5 P.M. October 12 (next Friday) to file their public grant applications (SEEC Form CEP 15). General election grant applications will not be accepted after October 12 at 5 P.M. The Commission strongly encourages candidates who wish to participate 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 groundbreaking 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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