

State Elections Enforcement Commission

Citizens' Election Program



Press Release

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FINAL GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE NEARS FOR CANDIDATES IN CITIZENS' ELECTION PROGRAM

HARTFORD, CT – October 10, 2012 – Only two grant application deadlines remain for candidates participating in the Citizens' Election Program ("CEP") to apply for grants from the Citizens' Election Fund. The next grant application deadline is today, October 10, at 5:00 P.M. The final grant deadline is Friday, October 12, at 5:00 P.M. Grant applications must be submitted to the State Elections Enforcement Commission (the "Commission"), at 20 Trinity Street, Hartford, Connecticut. The Commission will meet three more times to consider grant applications: Thursday, October 11, Wednesday, October 17, and, finally, on Friday, October 19.

To date, 298 candidates have declared that they intend to participate in the Citizens' Election Program for the November 2012 election: 64 state senate candidates and 234 state representative candidates. These are the highest participation totals since the Program began in 2007.

As of the October 3 Commission meeting, 233 candidates had received CEP grants: 46 grants to state senate candidates and 187 grants to state representative candidates. These are also the highest totals since the Program began.

To reiterate, participating candidates have only until this Friday, October 12, at 5:00 P.M. to apply for a CEP grant.

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. In its third full cycle of providing public funding to General Assembly candidates, the CEP continues to provide a seawall against the rising tide of special interest money in today's elections.

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