

State Elections Enforcement Commission

Citizens' Election Program



Press Release

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COMMISSION AWARDS EIGHTEEN MORE GRANTS; FINAL GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE NEARS

HARTFORD, CT – October 11, 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 Scott DeMuth (R – 110th District), Richard Eighme (R – 45th District), Andrew Fleischmann (D – 18th District), Mae Flexer (D – 44th District), John Frey (D – 11th District), Robert Godfrey (D – 110th District), Gregory Haddad (D – 54th District), Mark Robbins (D – 125th District), Robert Sanchez (D – 25th District), Pablo Soto (R – 83rd District), Nicola Tarzia (R – 147th District), Thomas Vicino (D – 35th District), and Christine Vincent (R – 53rd District) were eligible to receive Program grants. State senate candidates Daniel Dauplaise (D – 36th District), Terry Gerratana (D – 6th District), Robert Kane (R – 32nd District), John Kissel (R – 7th District), and Andrew Maynard (D – 18th District) were also determined to be eligible to receive Program grants.

The final deadline for grant applications is tomorrow. Candidates have until 5 P.M. on Friday, October 12, 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 immediately.

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

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. 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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