

State Elections Enforcement Commission

Citizens' Election Program



Press Release

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COMMISSION AWARDS SEVENTEEN MORE GRANTS; FINAL GRANT AWARDS THIS FRIDAY

HARTFORD, CT – October 17, 2012 – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) today awarded seventeen 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 Angel Arce (D – 4th District), Joe Aresimowicz (D – 30th District), Daniel Davis (R – 26th District), Rico Dence (R – 4th District), Noah Enslow (R – 47th District), John Hennessy (D – 127th District), John Iannuzzi (R – 130th District), Matthew Lesser (D 100th District), Douglas McCrory (D – 7th District), Chris Perone (D – 137th District), Charles Stallworth (D – 126th District), Peter Steele (R – 24th District), and Peter Tercyak (D – 26th District) were eligible to receive Program grants. State senate candidates Jack Chiamonte (R – 25th District), Eric Coleman (D – 2nd District), John Fonfara (D – 1st District), and Casimir Mizera (D – 23rd District) were also determined to be eligible to receive Program grants.

The final deadline for grant applications has past. There will be one additional Commission meeting to award the remaining grants to those candidates who have already applied and are eligible on Friday, October 19.

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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