

# State Elections Enforcement Commission

## Citizens' Election Program



Press Release

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### COMMISSION AWARDS THREE FINAL CITIZENS' ELECTION PROGRAM GRANTS

HARTFORD, CT – October 19, 2012 – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) today awarded the final three grants for the November 6, 2012 regular election under the Citizens' Election Program (the “Program” or “CEP”). The Commission determined that state representative candidates Lawrence Miller (R – 122nd District) and Philip Miller (D – 36th District) were eligible to receive Program grants. State senate candidate Kevin Kelly (R – 21st District) was also determined to be eligible to receive a Program grant.

The final deadlines for grant applications and for grants awards have past. There will be no more additional public financing grants awarded for this election.

To date, 291 candidates have declared that they intend to participate in the Citizens' Election Program for the November 2012 election: 62 state senate candidates and 229 state representative candidates. These are the highest participation totals since the Program began in 2007.

As of the October 19 Commission meeting, 271 candidates had received CEP grants: 56 grants to state senate candidates and 215 grants to state representative candidates. These are also the highest totals since the Program began.

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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