



STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

Election Day Parties Reminder **Information for Candidates Participating in the Citizens' Election Program**

All expenses paid by the candidate committee of a participating candidate must be made to directly further the participating candidate's election to office. Candidate committee expenditures that promote more than one candidate or committee must be paid for jointly.

May a candidate committee host an election day party for campaign workers, volunteers and other campaign personnel?

Yes, if:

- It is held on November 2, 2010.
- The campaign provides food/beverages not exceeding \$15 per person per occasion for breakfast, \$20 per person per occasion for lunch or \$30 per person per occasion for dinner (including tax and gratuity for each meal).
[Section 9-706-2\(a\)\(11\) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.](#)

These expenditures must be disclosed on SEEC Form 30.

CAUTION:

The event must be reasonable and should not be viewed as an excuse to “use up” remaining grant monies. Be sensible and mindful of the public funds with which you are entrusted. Maintain proper documentation to substantiate expenditures.

May a candidate committee host a celebration after election day?

No, post-election spending by the committee is carefully monitored and is limited. (See Chapter VI, Post-Election Spending: “[Understanding Connecticut Campaign Finance Laws: A 2010 Guide for Statewide Office and General Assembly Candidates Participating in the Citizens' Election Program](#)”). *However, after the date of the election, a participating candidate may personally pay for a party held on or after November 3, 2010, which would not need to be disclosed on the SEEC Form 30.*

May a town committee pay for an election day event for a candidate committee's volunteers/workers?

Yes, if the candidate or candidates are present, the town committee may pay for the election day event as an organization expenditure—allocated among the candidate or other committees benefited. Organization expenditure dollar limits would apply. (See [Organization Expenditure Fact Sheet](#)).

After the date of the election, a town committee may pay for an event for a candidate committee's volunteers/workers and disclose it as a regular expenditure. Keep in mind that a town committee's expenditures must promote the party or its candidates.

This fact sheet is intended to assist candidate committees and town committees, but does not provide legal advice and is not intended as a definitive interpretation of Connecticut campaign finance laws or regulations.



May a candidate committee and town committee pay for an election day party jointly?

Yes, subject to the following:

- If the town committee does not pay for the election day party as an organization expenditure, and if the event promotes the party and benefits the town committee workers as well as the campaign committee workers, the town committee should pay its proportional share of the cost of the event—it would be considered a joint expenditure.
- If other campaigns are present and benefiting from the event, such campaigns must pay their proportional share of the cost.
- Remember that participating campaigns cannot reimburse other committees, so vendors must be paid directly for a committee's proportional share of the cost.

Is a party hosted by the candidate at his/her home on election day counted as a house party under the house party exception to the definitions of contribution and expenditure)?

Yes, subject to the dollar limits for invitations, food, and beverages that an individual may provide during the election cycle. (See Chapter III, Volunteers, Travel, House Parties, and Facility Space: "[Understanding Connecticut Campaign Finance Laws: A 2010 Guide for Statewide Office and General Assembly Candidates Participating in the Citizens' Election Program](#)"). Such a house party held on election day must be disclosed on SEEC Form 30.

As noted above, parties or events held after the date of the election (on or after November 3, 2010) cannot be paid for with committee funds. A candidate may, however, host and personally pay for a thank-you party at his home after the date of the election, which would not need to be disclosed on the SEEC Form 30.

For questions about election day or post-election day events, contact your Candidate Services Liaison at 860-256-2985.

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