

State Elections Enforcement Commission

Press Release



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FINAL PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING GRANTS AWARDED

HARTFORD, CT— October 16, 2008 - The State Elections Enforcement Commission awarded grants to candidates participating in the Citizens' Election Program for the 2008 General Election. Today's meeting was the last meeting to consider applications.

The final seven grants were considered. Six were approved; one denied based on the failure to comply with statutory requirements in completing the grant application.

Jeffrey B. Garfield, the Commission's Executive Director and General Counsel, declared that the program had been an unqualified success. "Special interest money was removed from campaigns, and candidates spent more time with their constituents than on fundraising."

Beth Rotman, Director of the Citizens' Election Program stated that it was "amazing and terrific to report that the vast majority of participating candidates were able to successfully receive grants." She further stated that "the Program's first historic run has vastly reduced the influence of special interest money in Connecticut elections."

"The overall participation rate more than doubled the national record," stated Rotman, compared to public campaign financing programs in other states in their first year. In Connecticut, there is 83% participation for state senator and 74% participation for state representative.

Participating Candidates: <http://www.ct.gov/seec/cwp/view.asp?a=2861&q=421960>

The Citizens' Election Program awarded their first full grant to Cicero Booker, a minor party candidate for Senate District 15. The Citizens' Election Program has awarded grants to 236 candidates: 135 Democrats, 96 Republicans, 3 Independent and 2 Working Families.

The State Elections Enforcement Commission also announced today that it will hold Public Hearings on Wednesday, November 19, 2008 and Wednesday, December 3, 2008 to obtain feedback concerning the Citizens' Election Program from citizens, elected officials, treasurers, nonparticipating and participating candidates.

Public Hearing Notice: http://www.ct.gov/seec/lib/seec/CEP_Public_Hearing.pdf

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