



CONNECTICUT STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

July 2024

Volume 3



CEP Candidates Must Raise their Own Funds

As the Citizens' Election Program (CEP) season begins anew, we have been receiving numerous inquiries about how town committees (and other party committees), legislative caucus committees, and legislative leadership committees can assist CEP candidates. Because of these questions, and the recent changes to the law regarding organization expenditures, SEEC staff thought it valuable to review how town committees, and leadership and caucus committees can—and cannot—support CEP candidates.

It is essential to keep in mind that the CEP requires candidates to demonstrate substantial public support. One important facet of this is that CEP candidates must raise their own funds. They cannot have assistance raising funds from other committees. Candidates qualify for the program by raising a small dollar amount from individuals, primarily those residing in the candidate's district. CEP candidates are bound by specific requirements, including contribution and expenditure limits. One such restriction is that they cannot receive in-kind contributions—like fundraising assistance—from other committees. The organization expenditures that certain committees can provide do NOT include assistance with fundraising.



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July Quarterly Filing Due Wednesday, July 10, 2024

The filing period for the July quarterly report (July 10 Filing) commenced July 1, 2024 and ends July 10, 2024. All state central committees, town committees, political committees, and open candidate committees must file this report regardless of financial activity. The filing must cover the period starting with the first day after the period covered by the last filing through June 30, 2024. Please note that committees that registered on or after July 1, 2024 are not required to file the July quarterly statement unless they had financial activity that occurred on or before June 30, 2024.

Save the Date!

2024 CEP Virtual Trainings

July 17, 2024, 6-8 pm

OR

July 31, 2024, 6-8 pm

Call us for an invite! Updates to the schedule can be found [here](#).
If you would like to schedule a training for your committee



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Changes to the Law regarding Organization Expenditures

[Public Act 23-205](#) was passed and signed into law last year. Among the changes made by that Act were several to the definition of “organization expenditure” (General Statutes § 9-601 (25)).

Perhaps the change that will affect the most committees is the change to the type of event that committees can pay for to support CEP candidates. Formerly, committees could host and pay for events only if the candidate was present. At those events the candidate could fundraise for their own committee. The change to the law now provides that the candidate does not have to be present, but only their campaign materials need to be present, and now no fundraising can take place at the events. Now if a candidate committee and a town committee, for example, want to host a joint event at which the candidate solicits funds for themselves, this can no longer be considered an organization expenditure for which the town committee pays, but must be structured as a joint event where each committee pays its pro rata share of the costs.

Another change is that committees may now pay for the services of any individual to assist the CEP candidate’s campaign, not just “advisors” for “organization, financing, accounting, strategy, law or media.” The individuals can be door-knockers, phone-bankers, or van drivers—anyone who is helping the campaign for wages.

Additionally, the Public Act now permits aggregating the allowable amounts for organization expenditures if a written agreement exists between the treasurers of legislative leadership and caucus committees. The joint submission of this written agreement to the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) ensures compliance with the stipulated regulations. These committees may also reimburse each other for these purposes. This includes shared expenses incurred for operating campaign headquarters, preparing and disseminating political communications, and other contractual obligations.



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Primary Participants – Upcoming CEP 10/11 Deadline and Weekly Supplemental Filings

Upcoming CEP 10/11 Deadline for Primary Participants

Candidates in a primary are reminded that their Affidavit of Intent to Abide by Expenditure Limits and Other Program Requirements (SEEC Form CEP 10) or, in the case of those opting not to participate, their Affidavit of Intent Not to Abide by Expenditure Limits (SEEC Form CEP 11), is due by 4:00 pm on July 19, 2024.

Candidates not in a primary have until 4:00 pm on September 26, 2024 to submit their CEP 10/11.

All General Assembly and statewide office candidates are required to submit one of these affidavits, with the exception of candidates who have filed a 1B exemption from forming a candidate committee.

Weekly Supplemental Filings Set to Begin for Most Primary Participants

Every candidate committee in a primary in which there is at least one candidate participating in the CEP must file weekly supplemental statements with the Commission beginning with the second Thursday following the July quarterly filing through the Thursday before the primary. The deadlines are as follows:

Name of Report	Period Covered	Filing Deadline
First Weekly Supplemental Primary	07/01/24 – 07/16/24	07/18/24
Second Weekly Supplemental Primary	07/17/24 – 07/23/24	07/25/24
Final Weekly Supplemental Primary	07/24/24 – 07/30/24	08/01/24

For candidate committees in a primary in which neither candidate is participating, the 7th day preceding election filing is due on August 6, 2024, covering the period of July 1, 2024 through August 4, 2024.





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All CEP Online Training Videos Are Online

You can find our online training video modules posted on our site for easy access. If you have received your grant, you would be best served to review Committee Expenditures, Expenditures by Other Sources, and Compensation, Reimbursements, and Consultants at this time as you enter the spending phase of your campaign. The videos may be found [here](#).

For those who have not yet applied, you will find the other modules helpful – such as Raising Funds, Raising Qualifying Contributions Online – Parts 1 and 2, and Grant Application Requirements. Please remember that if you are still raising funds, only your candidate committee may raise funds on your behalf – party committees and political committees may not.

24-Hour Independent Expenditure Reporting

The Commission would like to remind committees, groups, and individuals seeking to make independent expenditures for General Assembly candidates in excess of \$1,000 that we are now in the period in which such expenditures, whether made or incurred, must be reported within 24 hours.

For more information, please see our [webpage](#) on independent expenditure reporting or give us a call at 860-256-2940.



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Minor Party and Petitioning Candidates Interested in Participating in the CEP

To qualify for a grant from the Citizens' Election Program, General Assembly candidates must demonstrate they have adequate support from the public by meeting a three-part threshold –

- (1) they must raise an aggregate amount of small -dollar qualifying contributions, which varies depending on the office sought;
- (2) they must receive qualifying contributions from a certain number of individuals residing in their district, which varies depending on the office sought; and
- (3) they must obtain access to the ballot.

A major party is defined as a political party whose candidate for Governor in the most recent gubernatorial election received at least 20% of the whole number of votes cast or a political party having a number of enrolled members on the active voter registry list of at least 20% of the total number of enrolled members of all parties on the active voter registry list at the time of the last gubernatorial election. A candidate who has obtained the nomination of a major party is eligible for a full general election grant base amount.

Minor party candidates and petitioning candidates are also eligible for public grants. A minor party candidate is eligible for a full general election grant if the candidate has obtained the nomination of a minor party whose candidate seeking election for the same office in the same district at the last preceding regular election received at least 20% of the votes cast for that office. A petitioning candidate is also eligible for a full general election grant if the candidate has obtained ballot access by utilizing the nominating petition procedure and has obtained petition signatures from electors equaling at least 20% of the votes cast for that office in the prior general election.

A minor party candidate is eligible for two thirds of a full general election grant if the minor party's previous candidate received at least 15% of the votes cast for the office and one-third of a general election grant if the party's previous candidate received at least 10% of the votes cast for that office. Similarly, a petitioning candidate is eligible for a two-thirds grant if they obtain petition signatures by electors equaling at least 15% of the votes cast for that office in the prior election and one third of a general election grant if they collect signatures equaling at least 10% of the last votes cast.

If you are a minor party candidate or a petitioning candidate and are interested in participating in the CEP, please contact your elections officer as soon as possible so we can go over the process in greater detail with you and your campaign staff.



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Contact Us

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SEEC Compliance Unit:

860-256-2925

Email: seec.compliance@ct.gov

eCRIS Help Desk:

860-256-2930

Email: seec.ecris.info@ct.gov

Staff Spotlight

Recently, James Heffernan, one of our finest Enforcement Attorneys, left the agency to pursue another opportunity. He will be sorely missed. Thank you and good luck to you Jim!

We'd also like to acknowledge our hard-working account examiners who are working days and nights and weekends to make the CEP program successful. 'Tis the Season! Thank you!

Let's not forget our Elections Officers who help make the CEP the finest public financing program around! They're always rising to the challenge—Kudos!