



PRESS RELEASE

May 23, 2024

STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES FIRST CEP GRANTS OF THE 2024 ELECTION SEASON

HARTFORD, CT – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) voted at its May 22, 2024 regular meeting to approve public grant payments under the Citizens’ Election Program (“CEP”) for candidates in the August 13, 2024 primary and the November 5, 2024 general election.

The Commission determined that state senate candidates Michelle Coelho (R – 24th District), Rob Sampson (R – 16th District), and Ayana Taylor (D – 2nd District) were eligible to receive CEP grants.

The CEP is a voluntary program that allows qualifying candidates for General Assembly and statewide offices to receive full public financing for their campaigns. To qualify for public campaign financing, candidates must demonstrate that they have substantial support from the public. Candidates for state senate accomplish this by raising \$17,300 from at least 300 individuals residing in municipalities in their districts. Participating candidates for General Assembly may only accept small dollar contributions from certain individuals—the maximum contribution is \$320—and no contributions from state contractors or PACs. The full general election grant amount for a state senate candidate is \$124,100.

The CEP was designed, in part, to reduce the influence of special interests in state politics while encouraging grassroots support of campaigns. In its sixteenth year of providing public funding to General Assembly candidates, the landmark public financing program continues to provide a seawall against the rising tide of special interest money in Connecticut elections.