



PRESS RELEASE

June 20, 2024

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

HARTFORD, CT – The State Elections Enforcement Commission (the “Commission”) voted at its June 20, 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 representative candidates Mitch Bolinsky (R – 106th District), Brandon Chafee (D – 33rd District), Jennifer Dzen (R – 57th District), Jane Garibay (D – 60th District), Kenneth Gucker (D – 138th District), Rebecca Martinez (D – 22nd District), Mary Renee LaMark Muir (D – 36th District), Christopher Poulos (D – 81st District), Elizabeth (Eilish) Main (D – 146th District), John Santanella (D – 58th District), Lenworth Walker (R – 60th District), and Steven Winter (D – 94th District) were eligible to receive CEP grants. The Commission also determined that state senate candidates Paul Honig (D – 8th District) and Martha Marx (D – 20th 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 representative accomplish this by raising \$5,800 from at least 150 individuals residing in municipalities in their districts. 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 representative candidate is \$36,500. 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.