

A guide to a new kind of politics

Citizens' Election Program for CANDIDATES

**Includes useful
information on
Connecticut's
new system**

***This new program begins
in 2008 for legislative
races and 2010 for
statewide races! Act now!***

Prepared by:



Connecticut
COMMON CAUSE
Holding Power Accountable

www.ctCitizensElections.org

Connecticut's new system

Connecticut candidates for statewide and legislative offices now have the opportunity to choose the Citizens' Election option to fund their campaigns. Instead of raising money from private interests, qualified candidates will receive public money from the Citizens' Election Fund. Choosing the Citizens' Election option will free you from the money chase and allow you to spend all of your time talking with voters in your district about the issues that concern them.

Why should I choose it?

- ▶ It's liberating. You'll spend more time with voters and less time raising money.
- ▶ Citizens' Election matching-fund protections mean that you will have adequate resources to run a competitive campaign.
- ▶ After qualifying, all of your money will come from the Citizens' Election Fund – up to \$35,000 for a House race and \$110,000 for a Senate race.
- ▶ It works. Arizona and Maine candidates have been using it for several elections and say it frees them from special and corporate interests.

How do I qualify?

► *File a Declaration of Intent*

Let the State Elections Enforcement Commission know you plan to participate. Complete, sign and have notarized an affidavit stating:

1. You agree to lawfully use state funds.
2. You will repay any amount improperly spent.
3. Status as major party, minor party or petitioning candidate.
4. You agree to adhere to spending limits.

► *Collect qualifying contributions*

Ask friends, neighbors or any residents to show their support by giving a contribution between \$5 and \$100. Contributors cannot be lobbyists or current or prospective state contractors, or their family members. Contributors must provide full name and address.

Office	Total	Minimum from state or district
Governor	\$250,000	\$225,000
Statewide	\$75,000	\$67,500
State senate	\$15,000	300 contributions
State representative	\$5,000	150 contributions

► *Where to sign up*

At the close of the party convention, nominees and party challengers can take application for election grants to the Citizens' Election Program. To be eligible for grants:

1. Both candidate and treasurer must sign the Citizens' Election Program application.
2. Application must be accompanied by an itemized accounting of funds received, expenditures made and expenses incurred but not yet paid.
3. Application must be approved by the State Elections Enforcement Commission.

The Citizens' Election Program Office is located at:

20 Trinity St.

Hartford, Ct 06106-1628

(860) 256-2940

www.seec.state.ct.us

e-mail: SEEC@ct.gov

Once you have qualified as a Citizens' Election candidate...

► *How much funding will you receive?*

Office	Primary	Primary In party dom. dist.	General election	Unopposed	Opposed by minor party candidate	Minor or pet. candidate with 10%*	Minor or pet. candidate with 15%*	Minor or pet. candidate with 20%*
Governor	\$1,250,000		\$3,000,000	\$900,000	\$1,800,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$3,000,000
Other statewide	\$375,000		\$750,000	\$225,000	\$450,000	\$250,000	\$500,000	\$750,000
State senator	\$35,000	\$75,000	\$85,000	\$25,500	\$51,000	\$28,333	\$56,667	\$85,000
State rep.	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$7,500	\$15,000	\$8,333	\$16,667	\$25,000
Spec. election state senator			\$63,750	\$19,125	\$38,250	\$21,250	\$42,500	\$63,750
Spec. election state rep.			\$18,750	\$5,625	\$11,250	\$6,250	\$12,500	\$18,750

* of total votes cast in prev. election or of signatures collected to total votes cast.

► *Will I get more money?*

If you are outspent by opponents, you will receive matching funds up to 100% of the amounts listed above. The Citizens' Election Program will closely monitor independent expenditures and your opponent's disclosure statements to make sure you get your matching funds quickly.

► *May I spend my own money?*

A participating candidate may provide personal funds to a campaign for nomination or election that do not count as qualifying contributions, and the amount will be backed out of their grant. Gubernatorial candidates may provide up to \$20,000; other statewide candidates, \$10,000; state senator, \$2,000; and state representative, \$1,000.

► *Can minor party or petitioning candidates qualify?*

Yes, by one of two ways. If a minor party candidate has received a percentage of the votes cast in the previous election, a candidate can receive a partial grant. Or, a candidate can petition for a full or partial grant, based on the number of signatures versus votes cast in the previous election. If a candidate receives a partial grant, they are permitted to privately raise up to the spending limit of participating candidates.

► *What if the fund is out of money?*

By January 1 in a state election year, the SEEC must determine whether there is enough money in the fund to provide grants to candidates. If the SEEC finds the available funds are insufficient, it will recalculate the amount of money candidates can receive.

**Find out how to
qualify for
Citizens' Election grants**

What's new?

Connecticut candidates for statewide and legislative offices now have the opportunity to qualify for Citizens' Election grants to provide necessary resources for running a competitive campaign.

Come Learn More!

Connecticut Common Cause can provide materials and training sessions for your group. We also have copies of materials in English and Spanish that can help you and other citizens participate in Connecticut's new Citizens' Election Program.



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