

the
CITIZENS' ELECTION PROGRAM

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 more time talking with voters in your district about issues that concern them.

Why should I choose it?

- **It's liberating.** You'll spend more time with voters and less time raising money.
- **After qualifying, all of your money will come from the Citizens' Election Fund – up to \$37,590 for a House race and \$128,880 for a Senate race.**
- **It works!** Candidates who have used the system say it frees them from special and corporate interests.

**find out
how to qualify
for citizens'
election grants**

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.

Connecticut
COMMON CAUSE
Holding Power Accountable

COME LEARN MORE!

Common Cause in Connecticut is a nonpartisan, nonprofit citizen lobby that works to improve the way Connecticut's government operates 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 Citizens' Election Program.

COMMON CAUSE IN CT
65 HUNGERFORD STREET
HARTFORD, CT 06106

860.549.1220

WWW.COMMONCAUSE.ORG/CT

**A GUIDE to
A NEW KIND
of POLITICS**

CITIZENS' ELECTION PROGRAM for CANDIDATES

Act Now!
**to participate in
2012 races & beyond!**



Connecticut
COMMON CAUSE
Holding Power Accountable

PREPARED BY: www.commoncause.org/ct

HOW DO I QUALIFY?

★ File a Declaration of Intent

Candidates who intend to participate in the Program first must complete several steps,

- Register a candidate committee with the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC);
- Obtain a federal employer identification number (FEIN) from the IRS; and
- File an Affidavit of Intent to Abide by Expenditure Limits.

FORMS FOR ALL FILINGS ARE AVAILABLE AT:
WWW.CT.GOV/SEEC

★ Collect Qualifying Contributions

Ask friends, neighbors, or any residents to show their support by giving a contribution between \$5 and \$100. Contributors cannot be current or prospective state contractors (or their family members). A portion of these contributions must come from towns within your district, or within the state in case of Constitutional Offices.

OFFICE	TOTAL	MINIMUM FROM STATE OR DISTRICT
Governor	\$250,000	\$225,000
Other Statewide	\$75,000	\$67,500
State Senate	\$15,000	300 residents of municipalities included, in whole or in part, in the district
State Representative	\$5,000	150 residents of municipalities included, in whole or in part, in the district

★ Where to Sign Up

Beginning in mid May of each election year, candidates may submit applications for election grants to the Citizens' Election Program.

To be eligible for grants:

1. Candidate must submit proof of ballot access for the primary and/or election.
2. Both candidate and treasurer must sign the Citizens' Election Program application.
3. Application must be accompanied by an itemized accounting of funds received, expenditures made and expenses incurred but not yet paid.
4. Application must be approved by the SEEC.

THE CITIZENS' ELECTION PROGRAM OFFICE IS LOCATED AT:
SEEC - 20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106-1628
(860) 256-2940

AS A QUALIFIED CITIZENS' ELECTIONS CANDIDATE...

★ How much will you receive?

OFFICE	PRIMARY	PRIMARY IN PARTY DOMINATED DISTRICT	GENERAL ELECTION	UNOPPOSED	OPPOSED BY MINOR PARTY CANDIDATE	MINOR OR PETITIONING CANDIDATE WITH 10%*	MINOR OR PETITIONING CANDIDATE WITH 15%*	MINOR OR PETITIONING 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	\$37,590	\$80,550	\$91,290	\$27,387	\$54,774	\$30,430	\$60,860	\$91,290
State Representative	\$10,740	\$26,850	\$26,850	\$8,055	\$16,110	\$8,950	\$17,900	\$26,850
SPECIAL ELECTION State Senator			\$68,467.50	\$20,540.25	\$41,080.50			
SPECIAL ELECTION State Representative			\$20,137.50	\$4,387.50	\$12,080.50			

*OF TOTAL VOTES CAST IN PREVIOUS ELECTION OR OF SIGNATURES COLLECTED TO TOTAL VOTES CAST. GUBERNATORIAL AND STATEWIDE GRANTS BEING SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

★ 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 removed from their grant. Gubernatorial candidates may provide up to \$20,000, other statewide candidates up to \$10,000, State Senator \$2,000, State Representative \$1,000.

★ Can minor party or petitioning candidates qualify?

A minor party's nominee may qualify if that party received 10 – 20% or more of the vote in the last regular election. A minor party's candidate which received less than 10% of the vote or a petitioning candidate can petition for a full or partial grant by collecting signatures based on percentages of total votes cast in the previous election. If a candidate received a partial grant, he or she is permitted to continue to solicit contributions up to the spending limit of participating candidates (in \$5 to \$100 donations).

★ 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 will receive.