



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
SPECIAL TELECONFERENCE MEETING
October 16, 2008
3:00 P.M.**

I. Call to Order

Chairman Cashman called the meeting to order at 3:10 P.M. Commissioner Cashman was present in person and Commissioners Jenkins, Gerratana, and Bozzuto were present via teleconference. Agency staff was also present.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of October 15, 2008 Regular Meeting

It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2008 regular meeting. So voted.

III. Consideration of Applications for Public Grants from the Citizens' Election Fund

Dianna Kulmacz, Director of Campaign Disclosure and Audit, summarized the following applications and results of the staff review.

1. "Friends of Cusano" John Cusano
Ms. Kulmacz recommended that this application be denied. The campaign has not submitted any additional information since being continued yesterday. They have not met either the \$5,000 threshold or the "in district" requirement. It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to deny the grant application for "Friends of Cusano" John Cusano. So voted.
2. "Ellis for the 37th" Gregory Ellis
It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to approve the grant application for "Ellis for the 37th" Gregory Ellis. So voted.
3. "LeBeau 2008" Gary LeBeau
It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to approve the grant application for "LeBeau 2008" Gary LeBeau. So voted.

4. "Wright for the 24th" Alphonse Wright
It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Bozzuto to approve the grant application for "Wright for the 24th Alphonse Wright. So voted.
5. "Cicero for the Senate" Cicero Booker
It was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins to approve the grant application for "Cicero for the Senate" Cicero Booker. So voted. Mr. Garfield noted that Cicero for Senate is the first minor party Senate candidate to qualify for a grant.
6. "Adamsons for Connecticut" Scott Adamsons
I was moved by Commissioner Bozzuto and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to approve the grant application for "Adamsons for Connecticut" Scott Adamsons. So voted.
7. "Martin A. Goldberg for State Senate" Martin Goldberg
It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Gerratana to approve the grant application for "Martin A. Goldberg for State Senate" Martin Goldberg. So voted.

Ms. Rotman summarized the first run of the Citizens' Election Program. She stated that there were 201 participating candidates in the House and 58 in the Senate for a total of 259. For the Senate races, there were seven primary grants awarded and 51 general election grants awarded to candidates. For the House races, there were 27 primary grants awarded and 185 general election grants awarded. Almost all of the participating candidates were able to secure their grants. One hundred and eighty-five (185) of the 201 participating candidates for State Representative received grants for the general election. Fifty-one (51) of the 58 participating candidates for State Senator received grants for the general election. The total grant amounts awarded for the general election for all candidates in the General Assembly was \$8,214,089.24; for the primary, an additional \$832,753 in grants were awarded; and \$292,332 for the special election. In total, the grant amount awarded for the Citizens' Election Program to all candidates this year was \$9,339,174. Ms. Rotman stated that participation rate was more than double the rate for first time participation in other states with similar programs. Following the election, the participants and others will be invited to public hearings which are scheduled for November 19th at 1:00 P.M. and December 3rd at 9:00 A.M. in the Commission's conference room. The public and media will be welcome to come to share thier experiences.

Attorney Andrews thanked Lois Blackburn and MaryAnn Stratton for their efforts in coordinating the many SEEC meetings.

Commissioner Bozzuto inquired about the reports he has heard regarding the organization called ACORN and the alleged fraudulent voter registrations that have been reported by the news media. Ms. Andrews stated that she is unable to comment publicly on a pending complaint however she stated that ACORN has been cooperating with the investigation. She stated that the system is working in that registrars of voters are catching and reporting problematic registrations to the Commission. Mr. Garfield stated that under the Help America Vote Act, each new voter must provide voter identification prior to voting on Election Day. He stated that he is confident that the safeguards that are in place will identify any suspected problems and will inhibit voter fraud.

Ms. Rotman noted that the Commission may need to meet next week to approve supplemental grants and she asked if the Commissioners would be available on Wednesday afternoon. They agreed to be available if necessary.

IV. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Gerratana and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins at 3:30 P.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes of the Commission were unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Lois Blackburn
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 24th day of October, 2008, at Hartford, Connecticut.



Stephen F. Cashman, Chairman
By Order of the Commission

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.