



Urgent Action Needed to Protect the Citizens' Election Program

Please take the time to call your state representative to share your concerns about the proposals to defund the Citizens' Election Program (CEP) in the state budget.

The Connecticut Citizens' Election Program was created to address rampant corruption in the state and to give everyday people a bigger voice in politics and the policymaking process. Its passage and successful implementation made the state a national leader in creating a democracy that works for all of us. CEP allows candidates to compete without reliance on special interest money; curtails excessive spending and creates a more level playing field among candidates. CEP provides public funding to run election campaigns for seats in the state legislature and for state offices. Funding for the CEP comes from the sale of abandoned properties, not tax revenues.

LWVCT was a key supporter in the creation of CEP in 2005 and has worked consistently to protect the campaign finance disclosure and attribution provisions.

For more information on CEP, check out the CEProud website <https://ceproud.wordpress.com/>

If you don't know who your state representative is please go to <https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/cgafindleg.asp>

Budget proposals that have been offered so far all, to a greater or lesser degree, harm the CEP and will make it difficult to impossible to run a program of public financing of elections. Candidates unable to self-finance will find it difficult to impossible to run for office without the resources of the CEP.

- Senate and House Republicans' proposal: Eliminate the Citizens' Election Program
- Senate and House Democrats' proposal: Take \$5 million out of the CEP in the current fiscal year and Take \$5 million out of the CEP in the next fiscal year.
- The Governor's proposal holds the CEP harmless. **Please make a call** to thank Governor Malloy for his continuing support for CEP, he's the first Governor to run using the program twice and he won both times against self-financed millionaires.

Please ask your state representative to oppose these attacks and to speak with her/his leadership about not voting for a budget that defunds the Citizens' Election Program.

- We oppose cuts to the landmark Citizens' Election Program
- We urge you to speak with your leadership about holding CEP harmless in the budget
- We oppose cutting grants to unopposed candidates. Sometimes candidates who are unopposed are in party dominate districts and still need to get the word out about their campaign to generate interest in voting.
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