

**Testimony of Beth A. Rotman
Director of Public Campaign Financing
State Elections Enforcement Commission**

**State of Connecticut General Assembly
Government Administration and Elections Committee
Raised Bill No. 7386
March 19, 2007**

Good afternoon, Chairperson Slossberg, Chairman Caruso, Ranking Members Senator Freedman and Representative Hetherington, and distinguished Committee members. I am Beth Rotman, Director of Public Campaign Financing of the State Elections Enforcement Commission (the "Commission").

At the outset, I would like to say that I remain appreciative that I was given the opportunity to appear before you on March 9, 2007 so that I could share my personal comments about the Citizens' Election Program. It was a pleasure to appear before this distinguished Committee.

Thank you for providing this additional opportunity to appear before you as you proceed with the legislative process. Raised Bill No. 7386, which was introduced by the distinguished Committee, includes, *inter alia*, many of the concepts discussed in my testimony of March 9, 2007. So, although I will not repeat that testimony at this time, I have additional copies of that testimony with me. *See* Testimony of Beth Rotman, dated March 9, 2007 (attached).

When I made the suggestions in my March 9 testimony, the goals of the Program, together with a focus on guarding the Public Fisc, were at the front of my concerns. I know this body shares these goals, and I think this Committee's introduction of this bill represents a very positive step forward for the Program.

I will just touch briefly on three major changes included in this bill. First, as I discussed in my March 9 testimony, mandatory electronic filing is crucial to the

Program's goal of providing the public with the utmost transparency, and accurate and prompt disclosure of campaign finances. Electronic filing is required in most major public financing jurisdictions, and is particularly important to contemporaneous disclosure of campaign expenditures of public dollars. Accordingly, the statute should be amended to require electronic filing at a \$5,000 threshold, rather than the current \$250,000 threshold.

Second, the law currently requires that candidates seeking to qualify for public grants obtain a threshold number of qualifying contributions, and requires that the majority of these contributions come from "individuals residing in the state" for statewide candidates or "individuals residing in municipalities . . . in said district" for legislative candidates. CONN. GEN. STAT. § 9-704. These provisions should be amended to require that this specified majority of qualifying contributions be obtained from "electors residing in the state" for statewide candidates, or "electors residing in municipalities . . . in said district" for legislative candidates. Changing the requirement from residents to resident electors would serve as a significant anti-fraud protection. This protection has been crucial in other major public financing jurisdictions toward protection of the Public Fisc. I have with me today a letter from the Executive Director of Arizona's Citizens Clean Elections Commission, Todd Lang, stating that the requirement that qualifying contributions come from registered voters, coupled with a contribution card requirement, have been essential to the Citizens Clean Elections Commission's "ability to catch cheaters and enforce the law." *See* Letter of Todd F. Lang, dated March 16, 2007 (attached).

Third, as noted already, to enable the verification process, the statute should require that applications for grant funds be accompanied by a contribution certification card for all qualifying contributions. Verifying the validity of qualifying contributions is crucial because candidates whose applications are approved receive substantial grant money to fund their campaigns. The contribution certification card should be signed and dated by the contributor, list the contributor's name, address, contribution type, and amount of contribution, and contain an affirmation that the contribution is being made

from the individual's personal funds, is not being reimbursed, and is not a loan or an otherwise prohibited contribution.

Just as this General Assembly should, and I know, does take pride in its adoption of the reform laws, this General Assembly should, and I know will take pride in amending the Program to ensure that any weaknesses exposed are addressed in a timely way. I look forward to a continued spirit of cooperation and exchange in the legislative process.

Proposed Substitute Language

**Beth A. Rotman
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Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 9-675 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

§ 9-675(b) The campaign treasurer of the candidate committee for each candidate for nomination or election to the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer, [or] Secretary of the State, state senator or state representative who raises or spends [two hundred fifty thousand] five thousand dollars or more during an election campaign shall file in electronic form all financial disclosure statements required by section 9-608 by either transmitting disks, tapes or other electronic storage media containing the contents of such statements to the State Elections Enforcement Commission or transmitting the statements on-line to said commission. Each such campaign treasurer shall use either (1) a software program created by the commission under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, for all such statements, or (2) another software program which provides for the standard reporting format, and complies with the specifications, which are prescribed by the commission under subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, for all such statements. The commission shall accept any statement that uses any such software program. Once any such candidate committee has raised or spent [two hundred fifty thousand] five thousand thousand dollars or more during an election campaign, all previously filed statements required by said section 9-608, which were not filed in electronic form shall be refiled in such form, using such a software program, not later than the date on which the campaign treasurer of the committee is required to file the next regular statement under said section 9-608.

Sec. 14. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 9-702 and subsection (a) of section 9-703 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

§ 9-702(b) Any such candidate committee is eligible to receive such grants for a primary campaign, if applicable, and a general election campaign if (1) the candidate certifies as a participating candidate under section 9-703, (2) the candidate's candidate committee

receives the required amount of qualifying contributions under section 9-704, (3) the candidate's candidate committee returns or transmits to the commission for deposit in the Citizens' Election Fund all contributions that do not meet the criteria for qualifying contributions under section 9-704, (4) the candidate agrees to limit the campaign expenditures of the candidate's candidate committee in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, [and] (5) the candidate submits an application and the commission approves the application in accordance with the provisions of section 9-706, and (6) the candidate certifies that the aggregate expenditures of the candidate's candidate committee and the exploratory committee established by said candidate, if applicable, have not exceeded the expenditure limit set forth in section 9-702(c)(A).

§ 9-702(c) A candidate participating in the Citizens' Election Program shall limit the expenditures of the candidate's [candidate committee] candidate committee and the exploratory committee established by said candidate, if applicable. (A) before a primary campaign and a general election campaign, to the amount of qualifying contributions permitted in section 9-705 and any personal funds provided by the candidate under subsection (c) of section 9-710, (B) for a primary campaign, to the sum of (i) the amount of such qualifying contributions and personal funds that have not been spent before the primary campaign, (ii) the amount of the grant for the primary campaign authorized under section 9-705, and (iii) the amount of any additional moneys for the primary campaign authorized under section 9-713 or 9-714, and (C) for a general election campaign, to the sum of (i) the amount of such qualifying contributions and personal funds that have not been spent before the general election campaign, (ii) any unexpended funds from any grant for a primary campaign authorized under section 9-705 or from any additional moneys for a primary campaign authorized under section 9-713 or 9-714, (iii) the amount of the grant for the general election campaign authorized under section 9-705, and (iv) the amount of any additional moneys for the general election campaign authorized under section 9-713 or 9-714. The candidate committee of a minor or petitioning party candidate who has received a general election campaign grant from the fund pursuant to section 9-705 shall be permitted to receive contributions in addition to the qualifying contributions subject to the limitations and restrictions applicable to participating candidates for the same office, provided such minor or petitioning party candidate shall limit the expenditures of the candidate committee for a general election campaign to the sum of the qualifying contributions and personal funds, the amount of the general election campaign grant received and the amount raised in additional contributions that is equivalent to the difference between the amount of the applicable general election campaign grant for a major party candidate for such office and the amount of the general election campaign grant received by such minor or petitioning party candidate.

§ 9-703 Affidavit certifying candidate's intent to abide or not abide by the expenditure limits. (a) Each candidate for nomination or election to the office of state senator or state representative in 2008, or thereafter, or the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, Secretary of the State or State Treasurer in 2010, or thereafter, shall file an affidavit with the State Elections Enforcement Commission. The affidavit shall include a written certification that the candidate either

intends to abide by the expenditure limits under the Citizens' Election Program set forth in subsection (c) of section 9-702, or does not intend to abide by said limits. If the candidate intends to abide by said limits, the affidavit shall also include written certifications (1) that the campaign treasurer of the candidate committee for said candidate shall expend any moneys received from the Citizens' Election Fund in accordance with the provisions of subsection (g) of section 9-607 and regulations adopted by the State Elections Enforcement Commission under subsection (e) of section 9-706, (2) that the candidate shall repay to the fund any such moneys that are not expended in accordance with subsection (g) of said section 9-607 and said regulations, (3) that the candidate and the campaign treasurer shall comply with the provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 9-711, (4) that the aggregate expenditures of the candidate's candidate committee and the exploratory committee established by said candidate, if applicable, have not exceeded the expenditure limit set forth in section 9-702(c)(A) and [(4)] (5) stating the candidate's status as a major party, minor party or petitioning party candidate and, in the case of a major party or minor party candidate, the name of such party. The written certification described in subdivision (3) of this subsection shall be made by both the candidate and the campaign treasurer of the candidate committee for said candidate. A candidate for nomination or election to any such office shall file such affidavit not later than four o'clock p.m. on the [twenty-fifth] fiftieth day before the day of a primary, if applicable, or on the [fortieth] sixtieth day before the day of the election for such office, except that in the case of a special election for the office of state senator or state representative, the candidate shall file such affidavit not later than four o'clock p.m. on the twenty-fifth day before the day of such special election.

Sec. 15. Section 9-704 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

§ 9-704 Qualifying contributions. (a) The amount of qualifying contributions that the candidate committee of a candidate shall be required to receive in order to be eligible for grants from the Citizens' Election Fund shall be:

(1) In the case of a candidate for nomination or election to the office of Governor, contributions from individuals in the aggregate amount of two hundred fifty thousand dollars, of which two hundred twenty-five thousand dollars or more is contributed by [individuals] electors residing in the state. The provisions of this subdivision shall be subject to the following: (A) The candidate committee shall return or transmit to the commission for deposit in the Citizens' Election Fund the portion of any contribution or contributions from any individual, including said candidate, that exceeds one hundred dollars, and such excess portion shall not be considered in calculating such amounts, and (B) all contributions received by (i) an exploratory committee established by said candidate, or (ii) an exploratory committee or candidate committee of a candidate for the office of Lieutenant Governor who is deemed to be jointly campaigning with a candidate for nomination or election to the office of Governor under subsection (a) of section 9-709, which meet the criteria for qualifying contributions to candidate committees under this section shall be considered in calculating such amounts; and

(2) In the case of a candidate for nomination or election to the office of Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer or Secretary of the State, contributions from individuals in the aggregate amount of seventy-five thousand dollars, of which sixty-seven thousand five hundred dollars or more is contributed by [individuals] electors residing in the state. The provisions of this subdivision shall be subject to the following: (A) The candidate committee shall return or transmit to the commission for deposit in the Citizens' Election Fund the portion of any contribution or contributions from any individual, including said candidate, that exceeds one hundred dollars, and such excess portion shall not be considered in calculating such amounts, and (B) all contributions received by an exploratory committee established by said candidate that meet the criteria for qualifying contributions to candidate committees under this section shall be considered in calculating such amounts.

(3) In the case of a candidate for nomination or election to the office of state senator for a district, contributions from individuals in the aggregate amount of fifteen thousand dollars, including contributions from at least three hundred [individuals] electors residing in municipalities included, in whole or in part, in said district. The provisions of this subdivision shall be subject to the following: (A) The candidate committee shall return or transmit to the commission for deposit in the Citizens' Election Fund the portion of any contribution or contributions from any individual, including said candidate, that exceeds one hundred dollars, and such excess portion shall not be considered in calculating the aggregate contribution amount under this subdivision, (B) no contribution shall be counted for the purposes of the requirement under this subdivision for contributions from at least three hundred [individuals] electors residing in municipalities included, in whole or in part, in the district unless the contribution is five dollars or more, and (C) all contributions received by an exploratory committee established by said candidate that meet the criteria for qualifying contributions to candidate committees under this section shall be considered in calculating the aggregate contribution amount under this subdivision and all such exploratory committee contributions that also meet the requirement under this subdivision for contributions from at least three hundred [individuals] electors residing in municipalities included, in whole or in part, in the district shall be counted for the purposes of said requirement.

(4) In the case of a candidate for nomination or election to the office of state representative for a district, contributions from individuals in the aggregate amount of five thousand dollars, including contributions from at least one hundred fifty [individuals] electors residing in municipalities included, in whole or in part, in said district. The provisions of this subdivision shall be subject to the following: (A) The candidate committee shall return or transmit to the commission for deposit in the Citizens' Election Fund the portion of any contribution or contributions from any individual, including said candidate, that exceeds one hundred dollars, and such excess portion shall not be considered in calculating the aggregate contribution amount under this subdivision, (B) no contribution shall be counted for the purposes of the requirement under this subdivision for contributions from at least one hundred fifty [individuals] electors residing in municipalities included, in whole or in part, in the district unless the contribution is five dollars or more, and (C) all contributions received by an exploratory

committee established by said candidate that meet the criteria for qualifying contributions to candidate committees under this section shall be considered in calculating the aggregate contribution amount under this subdivision and all such exploratory committee contributions that also meet the requirement under this subdivision for contributions from at least one hundred fifty [individuals] electors residing in municipalities included, in whole or in part, in the district shall be counted for the purposes of said requirement.

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (3) and (4) of this subsection, in the case of a special election for the office of state senator or state representative for a district, (A) the aggregate amount of qualifying contributions that the candidate committee of a candidate for such office shall be required to receive in order to be eligible for a grant from the Citizens' Election Fund shall be seventy-five per cent or more of the corresponding amount required under the applicable said subdivision (3) or (4), and (B) the number of contributions required from [individuals] electors residing in municipalities included, in whole or in part, in said district shall be seventy-five per cent or more of the corresponding number required under the applicable said subdivision (3) or (4).

(b) Each individual or elector who makes a contribution of more than fifty dollars to a candidate committee established to aid or promote the success of a participating candidate for nomination or election shall include with the contribution a certification that the individual or elector is not a communicator lobbyist, a member of the immediate family of a communicator lobbyist or a principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor.

(c) The following shall not be deemed to be qualifying contributions under subsection (a) of this section and shall be returned by the campaign treasurer of the candidate committee to the contributor or transmitted to the commission for deposit in the Citizens' Election Fund:

(1) A contribution from a communicator lobbyist or a member of the immediate family of a communicator lobbyist;

(2) A contribution from a principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor;

(3) A contribution [of five dollars or more from an individual who does not provide the full name and complete address of the individual] that is not documented by signed contribution certification documentation as required under subsection (c) of section 9-706; and

(4) A contribution under subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of this section from an individual who does not reside in the state, in excess of the applicable limit on contributions from out-of-state individuals in subsection (a) of this section.

(d) After a candidate committee receives the applicable aggregate amount of

qualifying contributions under subsection (a) of this section, the candidate committee shall transmit any additional contributions that it receives to the State Treasurer for deposit in the Citizens' Election Fund.

(e) As used in this section, (1) "communicator lobbyist" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-91, (2) "immediate family" means the spouse or a dependent child of an individual, and (3) "principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor" has the same meaning as provided in subsection (g) of section 9-612.

Sec. 16. Section 9-706 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

§ 9-706. Grant applications and payment. (a)(1) A participating candidate for nomination to the office of state senator or state representative in 2008, or thereafter, or the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, Secretary of the State or State Treasurer in 2010, or thereafter, may apply to the State Elections Enforcement Commission for a grant from the fund under the Citizens' Election Program for a primary campaign, after the close of the state convention of the candidate's party that is called for the purpose of choosing candidates for nomination for the office that the candidate is seeking, if a primary is required under chapter 153, and (A) said party endorses the candidate for the office that the candidate is seeking, (B) the candidate is seeking nomination to the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer or Secretary of the State or the district office of state senator or state representative and receives at least fifteen per cent of the votes of the convention delegates present and voting on any roll-call vote taken on the endorsement or proposed endorsement of a candidate for the office the candidate is seeking, or (C) the candidate circulates a petition and obtains the required number of signatures for filing a candidacy for nomination for (i) the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer or Secretary of the State or the district office of state senator or state representative, pursuant to section 9-400, or (ii) the municipal office of state senator or state representative, pursuant to section 9-406, whichever is applicable. The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall make such payments to participating candidates according to the schedule prescribed in subsection (g) of this section.

(2) A participating candidate for nomination to the office of state senator or state representative in 2008, or thereafter, or the office of Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, Secretary of the State or State Treasurer in 2010, or thereafter, may apply to the State Elections Enforcement Commission for a grant from the fund under the Citizens' Election Program for a general election campaign:

(A) After the close of the state or district convention or municipal caucus, convention or town committee meeting, whichever is applicable, of the candidate's party that is called for the purpose of choosing candidates for nomination for the office that the candidate is seeking, if (i) said party endorses said candidate for the office that the

candidate is seeking and no other candidate of said party files a candidacy with the Secretary of the State in accordance with the provisions of section 9-400 or 9-406, whichever is applicable, (ii) the candidate is seeking election to the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer or Secretary of the State or the district office of state senator or state representative and receives at least fifteen per cent of the votes of the convention delegates present and voting on any roll-call vote taken on the endorsement or proposed endorsement of a candidate for the office the candidate is seeking, no other candidate for said office at such convention either receives the party endorsement or said percentage of said votes for said endorsement or files a certificate of endorsement with the Secretary of the State in accordance with the provisions of section 9-388 or a candidacy with the Secretary of the State in accordance with the provisions of section 9-400, and no other candidate for said office circulates a petition and obtains the required number of signatures for filing a candidacy for nomination for said office pursuant to section 9-400, (iii) the candidate is seeking election to the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer or Secretary of the State or the district office of state senator or state representative, circulates a petition and obtains the required number of signatures for filing a candidacy for nomination for said office pursuant to section 9-400 and no other candidate for said office at the state or district convention either receives the party endorsement or said percentage of said votes for said endorsement or files a certificate of endorsement with the Secretary of the State in accordance with the provisions of section 9-388 or a candidacy with the Secretary of the State in accordance with the provisions of section 9-400, or (iv) the candidate is seeking election to the municipal office of state senator or state representative, circulates a petition and obtains the required number of signatures for filing a candidacy for nomination for the office the candidate is seeking pursuant to section 9-406 and no other candidate for said office at the caucus, convention or town committee meeting either receives the party endorsement or files a certification of endorsement with the town clerk in accordance with the provisions of section 9-391;

(B) After any primary held by such party for nomination for said office, if the Secretary of the State declares that the candidate is the party nominee in accordance with the provisions of section 9-440;

(C) In the case of a minor party candidate, after the nomination of such candidate is certified and filed with the Secretary of the State pursuant to section 9-452; or

(D) In the case of a petitioning party candidate, after approval by the Secretary of the State of such candidate's nominating petition pursuant to section 9-453o.

(3) A participating candidate for nomination to the office of state senator or state representative at a special election in 2008, or thereafter, may apply to the State Elections Enforcement Commission for a grant from the fund under the Citizens' Election Program for a general election campaign after the close of the district convention or municipal caucus, convention or town committee meeting of the candidate's party that is called for the purpose of choosing candidates for nomination for the office that the candidate is seeking.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, no participating candidate for nomination or election who changes the candidate's status as a major party, minor party or petitioning party candidate or becomes a candidate of a different party, after filing the affidavit required under section 9-703, shall be eligible to apply for a grant under the Citizens' Election Program for such candidate's primary campaign for such nomination or general election campaign for such election. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply in the case of a candidate who is nominated by more than one party and does not otherwise change the candidate's status as a major party, minor party or petitioning party candidate.

(b) The application shall include a written certification that:

(1) The candidate committee has received the required amount of qualifying contributions;

(2) The candidate committee has repaid all moneys borrowed on behalf of the campaign, as required by subsection (b) of section 9-710;

(3) The candidate committee has either returned any contribution [of five dollars or more from an individual who does not include the individual's name and address with the contribution] that is not documented by signed contribution certification documentation as required under subsection (c) of section 9-706 or has transmitted any such contributions to the commission for deposit in the Citizens' Election Fund;

(4) The candidate committee has either returned all contributions or portions of contributions that do not meet the criteria for qualifying contributions under section 9-704 or has transmitted any such contributions to the commission for deposit in the Citizens' Election Fund; and the candidate committee has transmitted all excess qualifying contributions to the Citizens' Election Fund;"

(5) The campaign treasurer of the candidate committee will comply with the provisions of [sections 9-700 to 9-716, inclusive,] Chapters 155 and 157, and the campaign treasurer of the candidate committee shall maintain and furnish all records required by Chapters 155 and 157, and by all regulations adopted by the commission for the Citizens' Election Program;

(6) All moneys received from the Citizens' Election Fund will be deposited upon receipt into the depository account of the candidate committee;

(7) The campaign treasurer of the candidate committee will expend all moneys received from the fund in accordance with the provisions of subsection (g) of section 9-607 and regulations adopted by the State Elections Enforcement Commission under subsection (e) of this section; and

(8) If the candidate withdraws from the campaign, becomes ineligible or dies during the campaign, the candidate committee of the candidate will return to the

commission, for deposit in the fund, all moneys received from the fund pursuant to sections 9-700 to 9-716, inclusive, which said candidate committee has not spent as of the date of such occurrence.

(c) (1) The application shall be accompanied by a cumulative itemized accounting of all funds received, expenditures made and expenses incurred but not yet paid by the candidate committee as of three days before the applicable application deadline date in accordance with the schedule prescribed in subsection (g) of this section [the application is signed]. Such accounting shall be sworn to under penalty of false statement by the campaign treasurer of the candidate committee. The commission shall prescribe the form of the application and the cumulative itemized accounting. The form for such accounting shall conform to the requirements of section 9-608. Both the candidate and the campaign treasurer of the candidate committee shall sign the application; and (2) The application shall be accompanied by contribution certification documentation for each qualifying contribution. The contribution certification documentation shall contain the following information: (i) the contributor's name; (ii) the contributor's residential address, including zip code and telephone number; (iii) the amount of the contribution; (iv) the form of the contribution; (v) the date of the contribution; and (vi) the candidate committee's name. The following statement shall be placed above the line for the contributor's signature: "I hereby affirm that this contribution is being made from my personal funds, is not being reimbursed in any manner, is not being made as a loan, and is not an otherwise prohibited contribution." The contribution certification documentation shall be signed by the contributor. The contributor shall provide the date on which the certification documentation was signed. The application shall be accompanied by documentation as required by the commission regarding the exploratory committee established by said candidate, if applicable.

(d) In accordance with the schedule prescribed in subsection (g) of this section [Not later than three business days following receipt of any such application], the commission shall review the application, determine whether (1) the candidate committee for the applicant has received the required qualifying contributions, (2) in the case of an application for a grant from the fund for a primary campaign, the applicant has met the applicable condition under subsection (a) of this section for applying for such grant and complied with the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this section, (3) in the case of an application for a grant from the fund for a general election campaign, the applicant has met the applicable condition under subsection (a) of this section for applying for such moneys and complied with the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this section, and (4) in the case of an application by a minor party or petitioning party candidate for a grant from the fund for a general election campaign, the applicant qualifies as an eligible minor party candidate or an eligible petitioning party candidate, whichever is applicable. If the commission approves an application, the commission shall determine the amount of the grant payable to the candidate committee for the applicant pursuant to section 9-705 from the fund, and notify the State Comptroller and the candidate of such candidate committee, of such amount. Not later than two business days following notification by the commission, the State Comptroller shall draw an order on the State Treasurer for payment of such amount to the qualified candidate committee from the fund.

(e) The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, on permissible expenditures under subsection (g) of section 9-607 for qualified candidate committees receiving grants from the fund under sections 9-700 to 9-716, inclusive.

(f) If a nominated participating candidate dies, withdraws the candidate's candidacy or becomes disqualified to hold the office for which the candidate has been nominated after the commission approves the candidate's application for a grant under this section, the candidate committee of the candidate who is nominated to replace said candidate pursuant to section 9-460 shall be eligible to receive grants from the fund without complying with the provisions of section 9-704, if said replacement candidate files an affidavit under section 9-703 certifying the candidate's intent to abide by the expenditure limits set forth in subsection (c) of section 9-702 and notifies the commission on a form prescribed by the commission.

(g) Not later than five business days after the applicable application deadline by which an application has been submitted for review by the commission, the commission shall review each application received by the commission by the applicable deadline and shall determine whether each such application shall be approved or disapproved in accordance with the requirements of subsection (d) of this section: (i) the first application deadline shall occur at four o'clock p.m. on the second Friday in May of the year of the primary or election in which the participating candidate is seeking nomination or election, and subsequent application deadlines shall occur at four o'clock p.m. on every subsequent Friday of the year of the primary or election in which the participating candidate is seeking nomination or election; (ii) the commission shall review the applications received by the commission by the applicable deadline and shall determine whether each such application shall be approved or disapproved in accordance with the requirements of subsection (d) not later than five business days after the applicable application deadline. No applications shall be accepted by the commission after four o'clock p.m. on the second to last Friday prior to the primary or election in which the participating candidate is seeking nomination or election. The commission shall adopt regulations on such a schedule of payments to any participating candidates in a special election.

Sec. 17. Section 9-751 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

§ 9-751. Contributions to Citizens' Election Fund. Any person, business entity, organization, party committee or political committee, as such terms are defined in section 9-601, may contribute to the Citizens' Election Fund established in section 9-701. Any such contribution shall be made by check or money order, except that any such contribution to the Citizens' Election Fund from the candidate committee of a candidate participating in the Citizens' Election Program or the candidate committee of a candidate intending to participate in the Citizens' Election Program shall be made by check, money order or cash. The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall immediately transmit all contributions received pursuant to this section to the State Treasurer for deposit in the Citizens' Election Fund.

Enabling Compliance Investigations During the Two Months Preceding An Election

(largely addressed in Raised S.B. No. 1314, An Act Concerning Campaign Finance Reform and the Authority of the State Elections Enforcement Commission, Sec. 2(a)(5) (Jan. Session, 2007), but should add "at any time" to the amended language as follows):

§ 9-7b(5) To inspect or audit at any reasonable time and upon reasonable notice the accounts or records of any campaign treasurer or principal campaign treasurer, as required by chapter 155 or 157 and to audit any such election, primary or referendum held within the state; provided, (A) (i) not later than two months preceding the day of an election at which a candidate is seeking election, the commission shall complete any audit it has initiated in the absence of a complaint that involves a committee of the same candidate from a previous election, and (ii) during the two-month period preceding the day of an election at which a candidate is seeking election, the commission shall not initiate an audit in the absence of a complaint that involves a committee of the same candidate from a previous election, and (B) the commission shall not audit any caucus, as defined in subdivision (1) of section 9-372; Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to limit the power of the commission to conduct inspections, audits or investigations related to the Citizens' Election Program at any time;