



CGA Appropriations Committee

**STATE AGENCY BUDGET PRESENTATIONS
AND PUBLIC HEARINGS**

STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 8, 2010

Comments Submitted By Christine S. Horrigan, Government Director

As a strong supporter of public financing of campaigns, the League of Women Voters of Connecticut was heartened to see that the Governor's FY 11 Budget Revisions (HB 5018 *AA Making Adjustments to State Expenditures and Revenues for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2011*) do not include any further cuts to the Citizens' Election Fund. *We urge you to stand with the Governor behind the Citizens' Election Program and to fully fund the Program for the 2010 election cycle.*

Over the past two years, \$38.5 million has been swept from the Citizens' Election Fund, leaving approximately \$38 million in the Fund for the 2010 election cycle—a cycle which the Office of Fiscal Analysis estimates will cost between \$38 million and \$42 million. Any further cuts to the Fund will force the SEEC to declare an insufficiency and cut grants to participating candidates. Under Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-716(b), participating candidates will then be allowed to raise funds from PACs and other traditional funding sources, effectively undoing the 2005 reforms.

Connecticut voters overwhelmingly support public financing of campaigns according to a recent poll commissioned by Common Cause. The League of Women Voters of Connecticut urges you to stand with the people and to refrain from making any further reductions to the Citizens' Election Fund.

Thank you.