

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE AND  
LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

**March 18, 2010**

**Stephen F. Cashman, Chairman  
State Elections Enforcement Commission**

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For ten years, I have had the great privilege of serving on the State Elections Enforcement Commission and the distinguished honor to serve as its Chairman since 2004. I would like to express my gratitude to Representative Cafero for nominating me to another term.

I am a resident of Windsor, along with my wife and three children. I am a graduate of University of Connecticut, and earned my law degree at the Temple University School of Law and am a solo law practitioner for over twenty-five years, with offices in Hartford.

My prior political experience includes service as a staff attorney to the House Republican Caucus of the General Assembly. I was elected to the Newington Town Council and served from 1983 to 1987, and was a member of the Newington Republican Town Committee from 1982 to 1989.

The legislature has enacted sweeping campaign finance reform. The 2008 elections were the first regularly scheduled election cycle in which Connecticut candidates could join the Program. In its inaugural run, 250 candidates, or 73% of all candidates running for the General Assembly, participated in the Program. This level of participation led to 78% of the current legislators having come to office using the Program.

Capitalizing on the success of 2008 and securing the continued existence of the Program, however, remains an ongoing challenge. The 2010 elections will be the first regular election cycle in which statewide candidates have the option to participate in the Program. As you may know, we are in the process of working closely with the governor's office and the legislature to ensure that there are sufficient funds in place for the 2010 election cycle.

There is also work to be done in light of the United States District Court decision finding certain constitutional issues with the current laws. Again, the Commission is committed to working closely with this body to ensure the continuation of the Program.

And most recently, the Commission oversaw the appointment of a new Executive Director, Albert Lenge, following the retirement of Jeffrey Garfield.

It is my hope that you will allow me to continue to serve as a member of the Commission for an additional five years. I respectfully request that you reappoint me to this Commission for an additional term beginning July 1, 2010.

I appreciate your consideration and welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have.