

2010 Program Report Card: Citizens' Election Program (SEEC)

Quality of Life Result: Connecticut citizens and candidates have increased confidence in the electoral process.

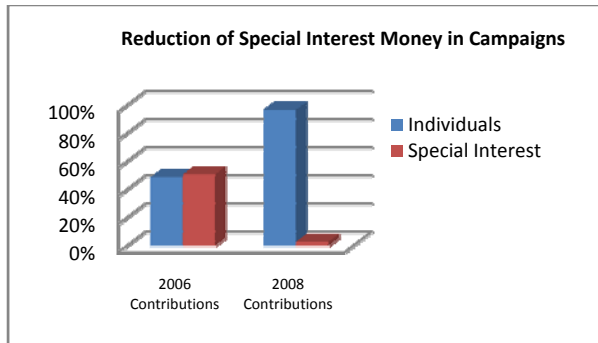
Contribution to the Result: The Citizens' Election Program offers Connecticut residents the opportunity to run for public office by providing public funding to candidates. The elimination of special interest money leads to improvement of public trust in government.

Total Program Funding: \$ 3,248,335 **State Funding:** \$ 3,248,335 **Federal Funding:** \$ **Other Funding:** \$

Partners: Connecticut General Assembly, Constitutional Offices, DAS, DOIT, Good Government Organizations

Performance Measure 1: Reduction of Special Interest Money in 2008 Campaigns

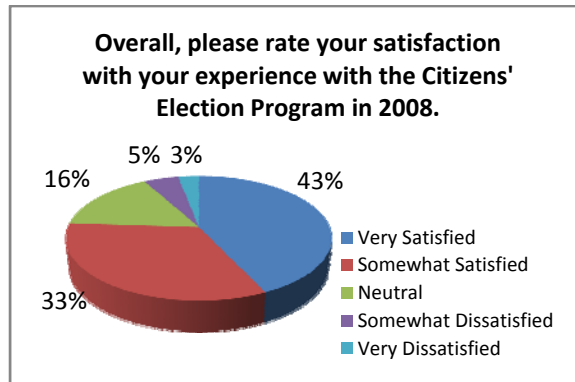
In 2006, less than half of the contributions made to political candidates came from individuals, and nearly half of the \$9.3 million raised by candidates came from special interest sources: lobbyists, political committees (PACs) and entities. In 2008, an extraordinary 97% of the contributions came from individuals.



Story behind the baseline: The high level of participation (almost 75% of all candidates for General Assembly in 2008 participated in the CEP) was a factor in reducing the number and amount of contributions received from special interest sources.

Proposed actions to turn the curve: Increased and individually targeted communications to candidates to increase program participation. The key measure is the rating of the confidence of Connecticut's citizen's in the electoral process. If necessary resources were available, an independent survey of a statistically suitable cross section of Connecticut citizens could be conducted to optimize our resource utilization and our ultimate success.

Performance Measure 2: Candidate Satisfaction: How well is the Citizens' Election Program delivering services to candidates?



Story behind the baseline: 76% of candidates responding to the survey were Satisfied with their experience, with 43% Very Satisfied. Nearly 62% of candidate survey respondents said that they were inclined to participate in the CEP with 26% undecided.

Proposed actions to turn the curve: Increase the use of online training for candidates and treasurers; and continue high level of communication with all candidates. At the close of each in-person or online CEP training session, have each attendee complete a survey; rating the value of the training, and ask for suggestions for program improvements. A similar poll can be conducted by the Candidate Services or Compliance Unit at the close of a customer service phone call.

Performance Measure 3: Increased Campaign Finance Disclosure and Transparency. Since the inception of SEEC's electronic campaign reporting information system (eCRIS) in January of 2008, the number of committees filing via eCRIS has increased.

Comparison of Committees using eCRIS in January 2008 and January 2009

Committee Type	eCRIS filing January 2008	Percent of total filings January 2008	eCRIS filing January 2009	Percent of total filings January 2009
Candidate	1	3.7%	147	62%
PAC	3	.06%	76	17.35%
Party	1	.03%	108	30.3%

Story behind the baseline: eCris is a state-of-the-art reporting system that provides the public with immediate campaign disclosure and transparency. The percentage of candidate committees voluntarily filing via eCRIS increased 58.3% between January 2008 and January 2009. The increase in electronic filing by candidate committees outstripped the percentage of increase in the same period by party committees (17.29% increase) and political committees (30.27% increase).

Proposed actions to turn the curve:

The Commission will continue to urge committees to use eCRIS to file registration and campaign finance disclosure statements. Increased training and customer support will ensure that the number of committees filing electronically will continue to increase. The Commission will also resubmit proposed legislation mandating e-filing for committees that reach \$5,000 in receipts or expenditures. The Commission's legislative proposal is not only a low cost no cost solution that increases disclosure and transparency; but also results in a net fiscal savings to the State due to the elimination of extra expenses for date entry of paper filings.