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Pledge to Participate in the Citizens' Election Program

Common Cause in Connecticut, Connecticut Citizen Action Group and the League of Women Voters announce today that candidates for statewide office, including Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz, Lieutenant Governor Michael Fedele, State Senator Gary LeBeau, Mayor Dannel Malloy, former Speaker of the House Jim Amann and First Selectman Rudy Marconi have signed a pledge to participate in the Citizens' Election Program as they pursue their candidacies for Governor of Connecticut.

Candidates for the office of Secretary of the State, Representative James Spallone and Gerry Garcia have also pledged to participate in the Program.

Candidates who signed the pledge also call on the Governor and Legislative leaders to act quickly and decisively before the next legislative session to amend the Citizens' Election Program so that it is operable for 2010 and beyond. As candidates they believe that it is essential that the CEP be amended to address issues raised by a district court ruling so that the program is viable and workable for candidates now.

Absent from the list of pledged candidates are former ambassador, businessman Tom Foley (R), and former candidate for Senate, businessman Ned Lamont (D), both from Greenwich. Foley has announced that he "probably won't" participate in the Citizens' Election Program. Lamont is currently limiting his fundraising to the small dollar limits imposed by the CEP and has committed to declining contributions from lobbyists and state contractors but has not committed to participating in the CEP.

Phil Sherwood, Deputy Director of Connecticut Citizen Action Group remarked, "It is our hope that all candidates use the Clean Election system and that the public recognize that the Office of Governor is not one that should be bought."

“In these tough economic times, voters must have faith that legislators and public officials will make policy decisions in the public interest, not to benefit deep-pocketed special interest groups,” said **Christine Horrigan, government director for the League of Women Voters of Connecticut**. “The Citizens’ Election Program allows candidates to run for office free of special interest money and we need this critical accountability measure now more than ever. The League urges the legislature to act now in special session to fix the program and to protect the funding for the program from further budget cuts.”

“Time is of the essence. Candidates for office need to know that the program is in place. We cannot wait for the 2nd Circuit court to rule before addressing questions raised by the court,” said **Cheri Quickmire, Executive Director of Common Cause in Connecticut**. “We applaud the Governor’s leadership in calling a special session to amend the Citizens’ Election Program today. We urge legislative leaders to work with the Governor to amend the law before the start of the legislative session,” Quickmire continued.

Common Cause in Connecticut is committed to working with the Governor and legislative leaders to address questions raised by the District Court ruling in Green Party v Greenfield, et.al. Common Cause and CCAG are intervenors in the appeal being pursued by Attorney General Richard Blumenthal.

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