

## ***A Very Good Year for Clean Elections and Women Candidates***

*In 2018 there was a historic uptick in women candidates and women candidates getting elected. That trend was even larger in Connecticut.*

### **2018: Another Year of the Woman**

“In the 2018 elections, women played a bigger role than they have in any other election in American history.” – *Brookings Institution*

#### **It's not the 'Year of the Woman.' It's the 'Year of the Women'**

“Since the early primaries began for the 2018 midterm elections, it's been a year of firsts and, to many, a year of the woman.” – *CNN*

#### **Female Candidates Break Barriers, Except When it Comes to Money**

“[W]omen who run for office are still struggling to raise as much as men, particularly if they are Republican, or challenging incumbents, or running in places where the opposing party has a big advantage — as is the case with many Democratic women this year. Men are still making the large majority of political contributions, and male candidates are still raising more money.”

– New York Times, 10/30/18

### **SUCCESS FOR WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES FOR 2019**

Approximately 2,107 women will serve in the 50 state legislatures in 2019. Women will make up 28.5 percent of all state legislators nationwide. This represents a significant increase from the 2018 session's ratio of 25.3 percent, and the most women elected at one time.

– *National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)*

- According to NCSL, the 2018 elections produced an increase in women serving in state legislatures from 25.3% to 28.5 %-- or a **3.2% increase**.
- In Connecticut, 2018 produced even a bigger jump, from 27.3% to 33.2% --a **5.9% increase**, or **84% more than the national average**.
- This was the biggest leap in New England. New York, considering a public financing program of its own modelled after our CEP, made a 4.2% gain.

*More women candidates received clean election grants in 2018 under the CEP than in any time in the past, with **127 grants awarded**. The previous high was in 2014, when 80 women candidates applied and were awarded grants. In other words, in 2018, there were **59% more** clean election grants awarded to women candidates than ever before.*

## SEEC Proposed 2019 Legislation

*To strengthen the vitality of the CEP and improve campaign finance disclosure*

- 1) **AAC DARK MONEY AND DISCLOSURE: FOREIGN MONEY AND SOCIAL MEDIA ADS**
  - Based on proposed Federal Honest Ads Act legislation (re-introduced in 2019 as H.R. 1).
  - Prohibits foreign entity funding of independent expenditures in Connecticut.
  - Requires online platforms to disclose who are buying political ads.
- 2) **AAC DARK MONEY AND DISCLOSURE: CEP CONSULTANT AND COORDINATION**
  - With the CEP, small-dollar contributions and clean election grants are fully disclosed, but the money that is spent is sometimes hidden through subvenders and consultants.
  - The proposal is needed to protect treasurers and place liability where it belongs – with those who have detailed expenditure information but refuse to disclose it.
  - Increases transparency with respect to clean election funds spent and enhances direct enforcement authority over those hired by committees.
- 3) **AAC DARK MONEY AND DISCLOSURE: COORDINATED SPENDERS**
  - Increases campaign finance disclosure by making it more focused and meaningful and creates bright lines between coordinated and independent spending.
- 4) **AN ACT RESTORING THE CITIZENS' ELECTION PROGRAM**
  - Restores key aspects of the Citizens' Election Program to ensure the comprehensive campaign finance reform that was envisioned when the Program was first adopted in 2005.
  - Re-establishes organization expenditure limits erased by Public Act 13-180.
- 5) **AAC ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM**
  - Authorizes SEEC to develop or partner in developing online portals for campaigns to collect online contributions.
  - Ensures secure, verifiable contributions for CEP candidates without prior *ad hoc* review by SEEC, easier for campaigns, more streamlined for all concerned, time and money saving overall.
- 6) **AAC THE AUTOMATIC DISMISSAL OF COMPLAINTS**
  - Last year, a law passed limiting the time SEEC could investigate complaints. This amends that law so that the one year limit ends with reason to believe finding rather than a decision. It also carves an exception for coordination, independent expenditure, dark money/foreign money cases.
- 7) **AAC AN EXEMPTION FOR HEAD OF THE PARTY CLEARLY IDENTIFIED**
  - Allows CT campaign ads for any office to identify presidential and gubernatorial candidates without creating the requirement for reimbursement or joint campaigning. Such ads would not be considered contributions or expenditures on behalf of such candidates.
- 8) **AAC THE CITIZENS' ELECTION PROGRAM AND MATCHING FUNDS TO REPLACE THE LOSS OF SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS FOLLOWING CITIZENS UNITED**
  - Re-proposal of 2010 proposal concerning matching funds for gubernatorial races.
  - Foremost policy option for combatting independent expenditures while enhancing vitality of clean elections program.