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CT NOW Disappointed in Judge Underhill Ruling

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CT NOW Disappointed in
Judge Underhill Ruling
Date: August 28, 2009
For Immediate Release

Hartford– The CT Chapter of the National
Organization for Women (CT NOW) is disappointed in U.S. District Court
Judge Stefan Underhill's ruling which essentially overturns Connecticut's
landmark
system of public financing of elections.

Connecticut's Citizens Election Program has already
made strides in encouraging more women to run for office. In fact,
according to
the Connecticut Secretary of State, a record breaking 102 women ran for
public
office in 2008, the first year public financing was available to legislative
races.

"Public
financing of campaigns has proven its ability to remove many of the
traditional
barriers to running for office, especially for female candidates. Without
access to the 'good old boys network' and with the added responsibility of
caring for their families while working to raise needed funds for their
campaigns, many women have found themselves left out of the political
process"
said Michelle Noehren, CT NOW Co-President.

Maine and Arizona, two other states with a system of
public financing have also reaped the benefit of more women running for
political office. According to a report from Common Cause, in Maine,
the number of women running for the state legislature has increased 18%
since
the creation of their Clean Elections program, and in both Maine and
Arizona women running for office used public funds at a higher rate than
their male
counterparts.

"Judge Underhill's
ruling is a step backwards for Connecticut women. We cannot return to
politics as usual where a citizen's ability to run a
viable campaign is determined by their access to private campaign

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and their ability to dial for dollars" said Noehren.

About

CT NOW:CT NOW believes that the personal is indeed political; therefore it strives to impact and change attitudes, beliefs, and policies that harm all women by fighting for political, economic, and social justice through education, organizing and action. This purpose includes, but is not limited to, equal rights and responsibilities in all aspects of citizenship, public service, employment, education, family life, and it includes freedom from discrimination because of race, gender or perceived gender, ethnicity, origin, age, marital status, sexual preference/orientation, physical ability/health status, or parenthood.

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