

House Republican Press Release

September 12, 2007
Press Office: 860-240-8700

REPUBLICAN HOUSE CANDIDATE FIRST EVER TO QUALIFY FOR PUBLIC FINANCING



Shelton's Jason Perillo Working to Continue Belden's Legacy in Special House Election

HARTFORD – Republican Jason Perillo, the party's choice to succeed the late state Rep. Richard O. Belden in the House of Representatives next month, today became the first state candidate in Connecticut history to qualify for public campaign financing when the Elections Enforcement Commission certified that he had met the threshold for private campaign donations.

House Republican Leader Lawrence F. Cafero Jr. of Norwalk congratulated Perillo, the 30-year-old Shelton Alderman and active public servant, for quickly reaching the requirements of the untested new public financing regulations in advance of the Oct. 9 special election. He qualified for \$18,750 in public funds.

“Jason Perillo has quickly demonstrated how widespread his grassroots support is in his hometown of Shelton. He is the right choice to continue the legacy of Dick Belden who preached fiscal responsibility and was the consummate public servant,” Cafero said. “The circumstances that have led us to this special election are, of course, tragic and unfortunate.”

Belden was the longest serving member of the House having served from 1975 until his death last month.

Cafero said he still has mixed feelings about the taxpayer-financed rules and added that the public will now get to see how their money is used for political purposes.

Perillo last week easily met the minimum requirement for private donations that must come from within the district he seeks to represent. In fact, elections commission staff noted the campaign exceeded the \$3,750 minimum received from at least 113 donors and surpassed it by \$605. Executive Director Jeff Garfield congratulated the Perillo campaign at its regularly scheduled meeting following the commission vote.

Cafero said that outpouring of local support from most who gave an average of \$30 indicates how highly regarded Perillo is in Shelton.