

## **Eliminate Legislative Grants**

Legislative grants are awarded through legislators by the House Speaker and the Senate President with no review process by the General Assembly. The general public does not know how these grants are awarded or have any explanation as to why some groups (libraries, Boy Scouts, fire stations, senior centers, etc.) are awarded grants and others are not. They appear to be used by legislative leaders to buy support of their issues.

A Providence Journal article reports, “An advocacy group says the grants, given out just before an election, are unethical” (“Operation Clean Government targets grants made by R.I. lawmakers,” *ProJo*, Paul Davis, Oct. 22, 2010). OCG posted the names of 18 senators who helped secure the most grant money in the last quarter of 2010. All faced opponents in the November election.

OCG recommends eliminating legislative grants, which promote the legislator, not the recipient. Many of the recipients already get Community Services Grants which do not have a legislator’s name attached to them. At least the Community Services Grants get a hearing before the House Finance Committee.