



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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AMENDED MINUTES  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING

Via Webex

Additional Methods to Attend This Meeting Include:

For public access please click: Stream on Youtube (<https://youtube.com/@ctseec>)

Stream on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ctseec/live>)

October 1, 2025

9:30 A.M.

**I. Call to Order**

Commissioner Penny was present via Webex and called the meeting to order at 9:32 A.M. Commissioners Michael Ajello, Shannon Bergquist, Sonia Asare and Greg Piecuch were present via Webex. Agency staff was also present and present via Webex.

**II. Approval of the Minutes**

*1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 17, 2025*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of September 17, 2025. So voted by a vote of 4-0-1 with Commissioner Bergquist abstaining.

**III. Administrative Reports**

*1. Report of Interim Executive Director on Administrative Issues*

Interim Executive Director Clare Kindall reported that staff are heavily into hiring for the 5 vacancies. The agency has extended an offer which has been accepted for the staff attorney vacancy. Mario Borelli will be joining the SEEC on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Staff will share his resume with the commission. The agency is highly fortunate to have him and look forward to him joining the crew.

Agency staff are also in the midst of second interviews for the IT Analyst and are in the middle of the first round interviews for the IT Manager. Staff has scheduled the interviews next week for the Administrative Assistant and the applications for the Elections Officer close today. Agency staff has been pretty busy with various hiring aspects and the agency looks forward to welcoming new members. Staff has also welcomed back Patricia from compliance who is just back after maternity leave. The agency will very soon be at full staffing.

Commissioner Piecuch requested a copy of the updated agency organizational chart based upon these changes and see where the positions are landing.

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**IV. Pending Complaints, Investigations and Audits**

**A. Public Session**

1. In re. SEEC Initiated Post-Election Review *Stallings for State Rep.*

File No. 2023-064

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:

Elizabeth A. Booker

Attorney:

Johnny Ross, III

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

Attorney Johnny Ross, III summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2023-064. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement as to Respondent Booker and dismissed as to Respondent Stallings and administratively closes the post election review in File No. 2023-064. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

2. In re. a Referral by the Secretary of the State, Hartford

File No. 2024-026

Notice of Case Closure

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Notice of Case Closure in File No. 2024-026. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Notice of Case Closure for this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Notice of Case Closure in File No. 2024-026. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

3. Audit Reports

**2022**

1. "Nick Gauthier for Connecticut," Nicholas Gauthier

Accounts Examiner: Ergys Guni

2. "Gresko 2022," Joseph Gresko

Accounts Examiner: Krysta Palozie

3. "Gucker for CT," Kenneth Gucker  
Accounts Examiner: Kyla Huband
4. "Moore4Senate2022," Marilyn Moore  
Accounts Examiner: Patrick Dotse

**2024**

5. "Cook2024," Michelle L. Cook  
Accounts Examiner: Rhonda Salvatore
6. "Kate for CT," Kate C. Farrar  
Accounts Examiner: Rhonda Salvatore
7. "Monteiro 24," Austin Monteiro  
Accounts Examiner: Nicole Duffany
8. "Tom O'Dea for State Rep," Tom O'Dea, Jr.  
Accounts Examiner: Rhonda Salvatore
9. "Tom Tesoro for the 123<sup>rd</sup>," Tom Tesoro  
Accounts Examiner: Kyla Huband
10. "Zimmermann for State Senator," Kyla Zimmermann  
Accounts Examiner: Nicole Duffany

Director of Campaign Disclosure and Audit Salman Munir provided an overview of the draft audit reports and recommended that the Commission make final items numbers 1 thru 10. Acceptance of the audit results was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

***V. Executive Session per General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B),(E), and 1-210(b)(1), (3),(4),(10) and General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48 §300 (Preliminary draft and agency consideration of enforcement action and exempt records relative thereto)***

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist at 9:46 AM. to proceed into Executive Session pursuant to General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B),(E), and 1-210(b)(1),(3),(4),(10) to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and exempt records. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

Commissioners Penny, Ajello, Bergquist, Asare and Piecuch were present via Webex. Staff members present via Webex were: Interim Executive Director Clare Kindall, Director of Campaign Disclosure and Audit Salman Munir, Staff Attorneys, William B. Smith, Zak Jazlowiecki, Johnny Ross, III, Joshua Foley, Aaron Charney,

Maryam Bitar, Patricia Mwilwa, Legal Investigators Stephanie Fish and Scott Branfuhr, Information Technology Analyst Jonathan Ortiz and Clerks Stephen Palmer and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

**VI. Consideration of Matters Discussed in the above Executive Session**

At 10:37 AM, the Commissioners came out of Executive Session and noted that no matters were decided and no vote was taken during Executive Session. The commissioners then considered the following matters discussed in the Executive Session:

1. Recommendation of Counsel: Necessary to Investigate Determination pursuant to General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48 §300

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the Recommendation of Counsel dated September 26, 2025 and requested that seven (7) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to seven (7) complaints, File No. 2025-072; 2025-073; 2025-074; 2025-075; 2025-077; 2025-078 and 2025-079. So approved by the Commission 5-0-0. So voted

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to make a determination that it is not necessary to investigate violations relating to one (1) complaint, File No. 2025-076. So approved by the Commission 5-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Kevin W. Coughlin, Branford  
File No. 2024-112  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: William B. Smith

The matter is continued.

3. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State, Hartford  
File No. 2025-034  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: William B. Smith  
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint in File No. 2025-034. He recommended that the Commission consider and approve the following Motion on the record: "Pursuant to its authority under Connecticut General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (8), the Commission authorizes counsel to refer this matter to the Office of the Chief State's Attorney and forward any evidence of possible criminal violations related to potential elections law violations

discovered in the course of the Commission’s investigation into the matter docketed as File No. 2025-034”.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the above motion in File No. 2025-034. So approved by the Commission 4-0-1 with Commissioner Piecuch abstaining. Commissioner Piecuch recused himself from discussions in this matter. So voted

4. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State, Hartford  
File No. 2023-083

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Zak Jazlowiecki  
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

Attorney Zak Jazlowiecki summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2023-083. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions as to a dismissal in File No. 2023-083. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Frank Blando and Joanne Blando, Stratford  
File No. 2024-119

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Zak Jazlowiecki  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Zak Jazlowiecki summarized the above referenced complaint in File No. 2024-119. He recommended adoption of the following motion in this matter: “That the Commission has reason to believe that Respondent James Simon, in the matter of File No. 2024-119, violated Connecticut General Statutes §9-250 and §9-242a-8(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, in connection with the issuing of incorrect ballots to Stratford voters”.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Request for Reason to Believe in File No. 2024-119. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. Commissioner Michael Ajello was appointed as a Hearing Officer in this matter.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Benjamin Shaiken, Mansfield Center  
File No. 2024-120

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Zak Jazlowiecki  
Legal Investigator: Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

Attorney Zak Jazlowiecki summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2024-120. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions as to a dismissal in File No. 2024-120. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

7. Public Comments Received Regarding Proposed Declaratory Ruling Regarding Digital Wallet Contributions

Attorney Aaron Charney reported that four public comments had been received in response to the proposed declaratory ruling regarding digital wallet contributions. He also reported that staff is in the process of drafting a final declaratory ruling for the Commissioners' consideration.

**VII. Executive Session Per General Statutes §§ 1-231 and 1-200(6)(A), and 1-210(b)(2)**  
A. *(Discussion of personnel matters regarding the hiring of non-managerial agency staff)*

**VIII. Consideration of Matters Discussed in the above Executive Session**  
No matters were decided during or after this Executive Session.

**IX. Adjournment**

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist at 10:53 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.



Sheri-Lyn Lagueux  
Clerk of the State Elections Enforcement Commission

**October 15, 2025**

Date approved

(By the State Elections Enforcement Commission)