



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
SPECIAL 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>)
December 23, 2025
9:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Penny was present via Webex and called the meeting to order at 9:31 A.M. Commissioners Michael Ajello, Sonia Asare, Shannon Bergquist and Greg Piecuch were present via Webex. Agency staff were also present via Webex

II. Executive Session per General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B), and (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 Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist at 9:32 A.M. to proceed into Executive Session pursuant to General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1), (3),(4),(10) and General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48 §300 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, Asare, Bergquist and Piecuch were present via Webex. Staff Members present via Webex were: Executive Director & General Counsel Ryan Burns, Legal Compliance Director Shannon Clark Kief, Legal Enforcement Director William B. Smith, Director of Disclosure and Audit Salman Munir, Staff Attorneys Mario Borelli, Joshua Foley, Aaron Charney, Patricia Mwilwa, and Maryam Bitar, Legal Investigators, Ron Perry and Stephanie Fish, Elections Officers Kailyn Flynn and Ashley Socquet, Information Technology Manager Irene Jeremic, Information Technology Analyst Renata Rydzeski, and Commission Clerks Sheri-Lyn Lagueux; Stephen Palmer, and Cynthia Ortiz and Carolanne Rowe.

III. Consideration of Matters Discussed in the above Executive Session

At 9:58 A.M., 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 Executive Session:

1. Recommendation of Counsel: Discussion of Candidate Committee Validation Memoranda

No action was taken

IV. Consideration of Application for Public Grants from the Citizens' Election Fund

A. New Applications

1. *"Friends of Larry Pemberton," Larry Pemberton*

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant applications for "Friends of Larry Pemberton," Larry Pemberton. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to refer to enforcement "Friends of Larry Pamberton," Larry Pemberton candidate committee relating to 8 possible straw contributions through the use of a single credit card. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

2. *"Brandon for CT," Brandon Sabbag*

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant applications for "*Brandon for CT,*" *Brandon Sabbag*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

V. Pending Complaints, Investigations and Audits

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Benjamin C. Shaiken, Mansfield Center
File Nos. 2024-101
Proposed Final Decision – Hearing Officer Report
Hearing Officer: Michael Ajello
Respondents: Aaron Bowman &
William Jenkins
Prosecutor: William B. Smith

Attorney Carolanne Rowe presented her Motion to concerning File No. 2024-101. Attorney William B. Smith argued against the Motion to Dismiss on behalf of the state.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Motion to Dismiss for File No. 2024-101. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

2. Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustments pursuant to §9-704 as amended by Public Act 25-26

Executive Director Burns summarized the Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustments relative to the Citizens' Election Program qualifying contribution amount and grant amounts. Executive Director Burns explained that, by statute the Commission is required to adjust the CEP qualifying contribution and grant amounts based upon CPI figures provided by the federal government. The dates and amounts of the CPI adjustments are proscribed and non-discretionary. The CPI adjustment for the General Assembly was required to be released by December 15, 2025, but was delayed due to a delay in the release of the federal figures. The CPI adjustment for statewide candidates is due on January 15, 2025. The Commission reviewed the information provided concerning the release of the CPI adjustment of the General Assembly qualifying contribution and grant amounts. No vote was taken.

VI. *Adjournment*

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 am. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.



Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

Clerk of the State Elections Enforcement Commission

January 7, 2026

Date approved

(By the State Elections Enforcement Commission)