



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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>)

December 17, 2025

9:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Penny was present via Webex and called the meeting to order at 9:33 A.M. Commissioners Michael Ajello, Sonia Asare and Greg Picuch were present via Webex. Agency staff were also present via Webex

It was moved by Commissioner Asare & seconded by Commissioner Ajello to Amend the Agenda 1) Adding "Iris Sanchez for State Rep.," Iris Sanchez to section V.A.2. and to amend File No. 2023-003B to 2024-003B for matter VI.A.04.

II. Approval of the Minutes

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of December 3, 2025

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of December 3, 2025. So voted by a vote of 3-0-1, with Asare abstaining.

III. Administrative Reports

1. Report of Executive Director and General Counsel Ryan Burns

Executive Director Ryan Burns opened by expressing sincere appreciation to the Commission and staff for the warm and exceptional welcome. He shared that he has begun conducting one-on-one meetings with staff to assess current operations, identifying what is working well and where improvements are needed.

Efforts are underway to establish and strengthen relationships with sister agencies, including FOIC, OSE, and the Office of the Attorney General.

Executive Director Burns advised the Commission continues to monitor the enforcement docket, which currently includes 162 active cases. These are categorized as follows:

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- 49 cases involving non-filers; and
- 113 cases consisting of traditional complaints, referrals, and Commission-initiated investigations.

A comprehensive docket report will be presented at the next meeting on January 7, 2025, to provide a clearer overview of ongoing enforcement activities.

Executive Director Burns reported that on the administrative front, the SEEC is planning a transition from the Webex platform to Microsoft Teams, targeted for February. IT will contact each Commissioner individually to provide training and address any questions or concerns related to the new platform.

Executive Director Burns updated that two special elections are scheduled: House District 25 on January 6, 2026; and House District 139 on January 13, 2026. The grant applications for district 25 are on this agenda and the grant applications for district 139 must be considered on or before January 2nd.

To facilitate timely consideration of both a pending Hearing Officer’s report and the grant applications, a meeting has been scheduled for **December 23 at 9:30 AM**. If the second grant cannot be considered on December 23, a follow-up meeting on **January 2** will be necessary, as this is the final date for Commission action.

2. 2026 SEEC Regular Meeting Schedule

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the 2026 SEEC Regular Meeting Schedule. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

IV. *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)*

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

Executive session was not convened.

V. *Consideration of Application for Public Grants from the Citizens’ Election Fund*

A. *New Applications*

1. *“JAMIE FOR CHANGE 2026,”* Jamie B. Vaughn

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the grant application for *“JAMIE FOR CHANGE 2026,”* Jamie B. Vaughn. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. *“Iris Sanchez for Stat Rep.,” Iris Sanchez*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the grant application for *“Iris Sanchez for State Rep.,” Iris Sanchez*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

VI. Pending Complaints, Investigations and Audits

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Frank Blando, Stratford

File Nos. 2024-119

Proposed Final Decision – Hearing Officer Report

Hearing Officer:

Michael Ajello

Respondent:

James Simon

Prosecutor:

Zak Jazlowiecki

Hearing officer Ajello summarized the proposed final decision in File No. 2024-119. He recommended adoption of the hearing officer report.

Counsel, for James Simon, Brian LeClerc was in attendance and urged the Commission to adopt the Hearing Officer Report.

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the hearing officer report for File No. 2024-119. So voted by a vote of 3-0-1, with Commissioner Ajello abstaining.

2. *In the Matter of a Referral by the Audit Unit of the SEEC, “Brian 45”*

File No. 2025-122

Notice of Case Closure

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Notice of Case Closure for File No. 2025-122.

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Notice of Case Closure in File No. 2025-122. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

3. *In the Matter of a Referral by the Audit Unit of the SEEC, “Bowman for Mansfield”*

File No. 2025-123

Notice of Case Closure

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Notice of Case Closure for File No. 2025-123.

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Notice of Case Closure in File No. 2025-123. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

4. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State, Hartford
File No. 2023-003B
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondent: Rebeca Garcia
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement for File No. 2024-003B. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2024-003B. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

5. Audit Reports

2022

1. "*Brian 45*," Brian Lanoue
Accounts Examiner: Krysta Palozie
2. "*Steve Meskers 4 CT*," Stephen Meskers
Accounts Examiner: Rhonda Salvatore

2024

1. "*Friends of Pat Dillon*," Patricia Dillon
Accounts Examiner: Kyla Huband
2. "*Barbara Marino 2024*," Barbara Marino
Accounts Examiner: Kyla Huband

Director of Disclosure and Audit Salman Munir provided an overview of the draft audit reports and recommended that the Commission make final items number 1& 2 for 2022 and 1& 2 for 2024. It was so moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

VII. 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 Piecuch at 10:02 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) to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and exempt records. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

Commissioners Penny, Ajello, Asare, 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, Associate Accounts Examiner Krysta Palozie, Staff Attorneys, Zak Jazlowiecki, Johnny Ross, III, Mario Borelli, Joshua Foley, Aaron Charney, Patricia Mwilwa, and Maryam Bitar, Legal Investigators Scott Branfuhr, Ron Perry, Elections Officer Kailyn Flynn Information Technology Manager Irene Jeremic, Information Technology Analyst Jonathan Ortiz, and Commission Clerks Sheri-Lyn Lagueux, Stephen Palmer, and Cynthia Ortiz.

VIII. Consideration of Matters Discussed in the above Executive Session

At 10:28 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 December 10, 2025 and requested that two (2) matters be moved to investigate. It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations related to two (2) complaints, File No. 2025-126 and File No. 2025-127. So approved by the Commission 5-0-0. So voted.

2. In re: SEEC Initiated Post Election Review “Re-Elect Zullo 2020”
File No. 2023-126
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney:
Legal Investigator:

William B. Smith
Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

The matter is continued.

3. In re: SEEC Initiated Post Election Review “*Re-Elect Trennee McGee*”
File No. 2025-060
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

The matter is continued.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Anthony Guerrero, Waterbury
File No. 2025-072
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Mario Borelli
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Joshua Curry, Clinton
File No. 2025-117
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Mario Borelli
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

The matter is continued.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Robert J. Corson, Clinton
File No. 2025-085
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Patricia Mwilwa
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

7. In the Matter of SEEC Initiated Investigations into the Failure to File a 2024 Biennial Political Committee Re-registration Statement or Certification pursuant to General Statutes §9-605
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Johnny Ross, III

Attorney Johnny Ross summarized the above referenced recommendation of counsel. On December 3, 2025, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission adopted a Final Decision, concerning *In the Matter of a Referral from an Elections Officer, SEEC File Nos.* 2024-140, 2024-145, 2024-147, 2024-157, 2025-015, 2025-028, and 2025-041. The Final Decision reasoned that the failure to file a 2024 Biennial Political Committee Re-registration statement or certification is not a violation of General Statutes § 9-610. the Commission dismisses the investigations authorized on February 19, 2025 into the following committees: Caroline Simmons

PAC, Community Empowerment, Fairfield County Young Democrats, Gibson PAC, and Greater Hartford Progressive Democratic Women's Club.

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Notice of Case Closure. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

8. In the Matter of a Referral from an Elections Officer

File No. 2025-016

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Johnny Ross, III

Attorney Johnny Ross, III summarized the above referenced complaint and Notice of Case Closure for File No. 2025-016.

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Notice of Case Closure in File No. 2025-016. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

9. Recommendation of Counsel: Petition for Declaratory Ruling – 2025-01 – Resolution and Order Setting Forth Specified Proceedings for Declaratory Ruling Addressing Petition of Jeffrey Zyjeski

Attorney:

Maryam Bitar

Attorney Maryam Bitar summarized the Petition by Jeffrey Zyjeski for a Proposed Declaratory Ruling and recommended the following motion:

Resolution and Order Setting Forth Specified Proceedings for Declaratory Ruling Addressing Petition of Jeffrey Zyjeski: Pursuant to General Statutes § 4-176 (e) and Connecticut Agency Regulations § 9-7b-65 (c), it is hereby resolved and ordered that the following proceedings are set regarding the Petition on behalf of Jeffrey Zyjeski, regarding the application Public Act 24-28, An Act Concerning Foreign Political Spending, received by the Commission on October 29, 2025, from attorney Jeffrey Zyjeski:

(1) The Commission directs staff to draft a Proposed Declaratory Ruling 2025-01 for consideration by the Commission on or before its regular meeting scheduled for March 4, 2026;

(2) If the Commission votes to publish the proposed Declaratory Ruling for comment, the Commission shall direct staff to post notice of the proposed Declaratory Ruling on the SEEC website and to send notice to all persons who were sent notice of the receipt of the petition, with a comment period to close no later than 11:59 p.m., two weeks prior to the regular Commission meeting on April 1, 2026..

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the above motion and draft a Proposed Declaratory Ruling. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0

IX. *Adjournment*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adjourn the meeting at 11:24am. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. 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)