



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

DRAFT MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING

Via Teams

Additional Methods to Attend This Meeting Included:

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

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

April 15, 2026

9:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Stephen Penny was present via Teams and called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. Commissioners Michael Ajello, Sonia Worell Asare, and Shannon Bergquist were present via Teams. Agency staff were also present via Teams.

II. Approval of the Minutes

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of April 1, 2026

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of *April 1, 2026*. So voted by a vote of 3-0-1, with Commissioner Ajello Abstaining.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of April 8, 2026

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of *April 8, 2026*. So voted by a vote of 3-0-1, with Commissioner Ajello Abstaining.

III. Administrative Reports

1. Report of Executive Director and General Counsel Ryan Burns

Executive Director and General Counsel Ryan Burns provided an abbreviated report on legislation. Legislative updates regarding the Fire Districts bill, which was referred to the Appropriations Committee, however, at their most recent committee meeting, they failed to vote it back to the floor. The Municipal Election Review Board bill, was voted out of committee and has come out of both GAE and Appropriations with favorable reports. Finally, the one bill most likely to get a favorable vote is HB 5001, which includes the universal absentee

balloting provisions. There was a fiscal note added to include one investigator for this office. This is moving through and will be voted on by Appropriations on Friday. This bill is almost certain to pass in some form this session.

IV. *Executive Session per General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B),(E), and 1-210(b)(1), (3),(4),(10) and General Statutes §9-7a*
(Preliminary draft and agency consideration of enforcement action and exempt records relative thereto)

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare at 9:36 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 Bergquist were present via Teams. Staff members present via Teams were: Executive Director and General Counsel Ryan Burns, Senior Counsel Joshua Foley, Legal Program Director Shannon Clark Kief, Director of Campaign Disclosure & Audit Salman Munir, Associate Accounts Examiner Krysta Palozie, Enforcement Director William Smith, Staff Attorneys Mario Borelli, Johnny Ross, III, Maryam Bitar, Aaron Charney, Patricia Mwilwa, Legal Investigators, Ronald Perry, Elections Officer Kaitlin Flynn, Information Technology Manager Irene Jeremic, Information Technology Analyst Jonathan, Ortiz, Nathan Diaz-Rolon, and Commission Clerks Sheri-Lyn Lagueux, Stephen Palmer and Cynthia Ortiz.

1. Consideration of Necessary to Investigate Determination pursuant to General Statutes §9-7a

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

At 9:41 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.

VI. *Pending Complaints, Investigations and Audits*

A. *Public Session*

1. Audit Reports

Director of Campaign Disclosure and Audit Salman Munir provided an overview of the draft audit reports and recommended that the Commission refer enforcement for further investigation:

1. *Dennis for the People,*” Dennis Bradley
2. *“Fred Gee for State Rep.,*” Fred Gee
3. *“Herron Gaston for State Senate,”* Herron Gaston
4. *“Jill Barry 2022,”* Jill Barry
5. *“MaritzaBondforCT,”* Maritza Bond
6. *“Bob for Governor,”* Bob Stefanowski, Jr.

2024

7. *“Olga Anastos for State Representative,”* Olga Anastos
8. *“Re-Elect State Rep Baker,”* Andre Baker
9. *“Bowman for Mansfield,”* Aaron Bowman
10. *“Cassetti for State Rep,”* David Cassetti
11. *“Paul for Senate,”* Paul Crisci
12. *“Re-Elect Gaston 2024,”* Herron Gaston
13. *“Gibson 2024,”* Bobby G. Gibson, Jr.
14. *“Godfrey24,”* Bob Godfrey
15. *“Brian 45,”* Brian Lanoue
16. *“Martinez for the 124th,”* Eneida Martinez
17. *“Reddy for CT Senate,”* Christopher D. Reddy
18. *“Melissa Santana for the 110th,”* Melissa Santana
19. *“Stafstrom 2024,”* Steven J. Stafstrom

Acceptance of the audit referral was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

Director of Campaign Disclosure and Audit Salman Munir provided an overview of the draft audit reports and recommended that the Commission make final:

20. "*Fazio for Connecticut,*" Ryan Fazio
Accounts Examiner: Saadah Junood

21. "*Elect Mae Flexer,*" Mae Flexer
Accounts Examiner: Saadah Junood

22. "*Steven Meskers 4 Greenwich,*" Stephen R Meskers
Accounts Examiner: Kyla Huband

Acceptance of the audit results was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2022

23. "*Dennis for the People,*" Dennis Bradley
Attorney: William B. Smith

The Commission pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (1) initiates an investigation into "*Dennis for the People,*" based on findings that Victoria Dancy may have violated campaign finance statutes and regulations as treasurer of the aforesaid candidate committee for the 2022 election cycle.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to initiate in investigation into "*Dennis for the People,*". So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

24. "*Fred Gee for State Rep.,*" Fred Gee
Attorney: William B. Smith

The Commission pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (1) initiates an investigation into "*Fred Gee for State Rep.,*" based on findings that Constance E. Vickers may have violated campaign finance statutes and regulations as treasurer of the aforesaid candidate committee for the 2022 election cycle.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to initiate in investigation into “*Fred Gee for State Rep*”. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

25. “*Herron Gaston for State Senate*,” Herron Gaston
Attorney: William B. Smith

The Commission pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (1) initiates an investigation into “*Herron Gaston for State Senate*,” based on findings that Michael Lepore may have violated campaign finance statutes and regulations as treasurer of the aforesaid candidate committee for the 2022 election cycle.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to initiate in investigation into “*Herron Gaston for State Senate*”. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

26. “*Jill Barry 2022*,” Jill Barry
Attorney: William B. Smith

The Commission pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (1) initiates an investigation into “*Jill Barry 2022*,” based on findings that Constance E. Vickers may have violated campaign finance statutes and regulations as treasurer of the aforesaid candidate committee for the 2022 election cycle.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to initiate in investigation into “*Jill Barry 2022*.” So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

27. “*MaritzaBondforCT*,” Maritza Bond
Attorney: William B. Smith

The Commission pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (1) initiates an investigation into “*MaritzaBondforCT*,” based on findings that Jenell Lawson may have violated campaign finance statutes and regulations as treasurer of the aforesaid candidate committee for the 2022 election cycle.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to initiate in investigation into “*MaritzaBondforCT*”. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

28. “*Bob for Governor*,” Bob Stefanowski, Jr.
Attorney: William B. Smith

The Commission pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (1) initiates an investigation into “*Bob for Governor*,” based on findings that David Becker may have violated campaign finance statutes and regulations as treasurer of the aforesaid candidate committee for the 2022 election cycle.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to initiate in investigation into “*Bob for Governor*”. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2024

29. “*Olga Anastos for State Representative*,” Olga Anastos
Attorney: William B. Smith

The Commission pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (1) initiates an investigation into “*Olga Anastos for State Representative*,” based on findings that Melissa T. Zablocki may have violated campaign finance statutes and regulations as treasurer of the aforesaid candidate committee for the 2024 election cycle.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to initiate in investigation into “*Olga Anastos for State Representative*”. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

30. “*Re-Elect State Rep Baker*,” Andre Baker
Attorney: William B. Smith

The Commission pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (1) initiates an investigation into “*Re-Elect State Rep Baker*,” based on findings that Mamie M. Mayes may have violated campaign finance statutes and regulations as treasurer of the aforesaid candidate committee for the 2024 election cycle.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to initiate in investigation into “*Re-Elect State Rep Baker*”. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

31. “*Bowman for Mansfield*,” Aaron Bowman
Attorney: William B. Smith

The Commission pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (1) initiates an investigation into “*Bowman for Mansfield*,” based on findings that William L. Jenkins may have violated campaign finance statutes and regulations as treasurer of the aforesaid candidate committee for the 2024 election cycle.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to initiate in investigation into "*Bowman for Mansfield*". So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

32. "*Cassetti for State Rep,*" David Cassetti
Attorney: William B. Smith

The Commission pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (1) initiates an investigation into "*Cassetti for State Rep,*" based on findings that Tony Mammone may have violated campaign finance statutes and regulations as treasurer of the aforesaid candidate committee for the 2024 election cycle.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to initiate in investigation into "*Cassetti for State Rep*". So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

33. "*Paul for Senate,*" Paul Crisci
Attorney: William B. Smith

The Commission pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (1) initiates an investigation into "*Paul for Senate,*" based on findings that Mann Hasen may have violated campaign finance statutes and regulations as treasurer of the aforesaid candidate committee for the 2024 election cycle.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to initiate in investigation into "*Paul for Senate*". So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

34. "*Re-Elect Gaston 2024,*" Herron Gaston
Attorney: William B. Smith

The Commission pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (1) initiates an investigation into "*Re-Elect Gaston 2024,*" based on findings that Anthony Paoletto may have violated campaign finance statutes and regulations as treasurer of the aforesaid candidate committee for the 2024 election cycle.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to initiate in investigation into "*Re-Elect Gaston 2024*". So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

35. "*Gibson 2024,*" Bobby G. Gibson, Jr.
Attorney: William B. Smith

The Commission pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (1) initiates an investigation into "*Gibson 2024*," based on findings that Aloysius A. Udoh may have violated campaign finance statutes and regulations as treasurer of the aforesaid candidate committee for the 2024 election cycle.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to initiate in investigation into "*Gibson 2024*". So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

36. "*Godfrey24*," Bob Godfrey
Attorney: William B. Smith

The Commission pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (1) initiates an investigation into "*Godfrey 24*," based on findings that Gene Enriquez may have violated campaign finance statutes and regulations as treasurer of the aforesaid candidate committee for the 2024 election cycle.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to initiate in investigation into "*Godfrey 2024*". So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

37. "*Brian 45*," Brian Lanoue
Attorney: William B. Smith

The Commission pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (1) initiates an investigation into "*Brian 45*," based on findings that William L. Jenkins may have violated campaign finance statutes and regulations as treasurer of the aforesaid candidate committee for the 2024 election cycle.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to initiate in investigation into "*Brian 45*". So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

38. "*Martinez for the 124th*," Eneida Martinez
Attorney: William B. Smith

The Commission pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (1) initiates an investigation into "*Martinez for the 124th*," based on findings that Margaret Joyce may have violated campaign finance statutes and regulations as treasurer of the aforesaid candidate committee for the 2024 election cycle.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to initiate in investigation into "*Martinez for the 124th*". So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

39. *“Reddy for CT Senate,”* Christopher D. Reddy
Attorney: William B. Smith

The Commission pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (1) initiates an investigation into *“Reddy for CT Senate,”* based on findings that William L. Jenkins may have violated campaign finance statutes and regulations as treasurer of the aforesaid candidate committee for the 2024 election cycle.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to initiate in investigation into *“Reddy for CT Senate”*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

40. *“Melissa Santana for the 110th,”* Melissa Santana
Attorney: William B. Smith

The Commission pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (1) initiates an investigation into *“Melissa Santana for the 110th,”* based on findings that Anna C. Nicolin may have violated campaign finance statutes and regulations as treasurer of the aforesaid candidate committee for the 2024 election cycle.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to initiate in investigation into *“Melissa Santana for the 110th”*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

41. *“Stafstrom 2024,”* Steven J. Stafstrom
Attorney: William B. Smith

The Commission pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (1) initiates an investigation into *“Stafstrom 2024,”* based on findings that Constance E. Vickers may have violated campaign finance statutes and regulations as treasurer of the aforesaid candidate committee for the 2024 election cycle.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to initiate in investigation into *“Stafstrom 2024”*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

Director of Campaign Disclosure and Audit Salman Munir provided an overview of the draft audit reports and recommended that the Commission make final item numbers 20 through 22. Acceptance of the audit results was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

Commissioner Piecuch joined the call at 10:03 A.M., starting with discussion on Audit number 14.

2. In the Matter of a SEEC Campaign Disclosure & Audit referral “*Re-Elect Zullo 2020*” Hartford
File No. 2023-126
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2023-126. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2023-126. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

VII. Executive Session per General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B),(E), and 1-210(b)(1), (3),(4),(10) and General Statutes §9-7a
(Preliminary draft and agency consideration of enforcement action and exempt records relative thereto)

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare at 10:14 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 5-0-0.

Commissioners Penny, Ajello, Asare, Bergquist and Piecuch were present via Teams. Staff members present via Teams were: Executive Director and General Counsel Ryan Burns, Senior Counsel Joshua Foley, Legal Program Director Shannon Clark Kief, Director of Campaign Disclosure & Audit Salman Munir, Associate Accounts Examiner Krysta Palozie, Enforcement Director William Smith, Staff Attorneys Mario Borelli, Johny Ross, III, Maryam Bitar, Aaron Charney, Patricia Mwilwa, Legal Investigators, Ronald Perry, Elections Officer Kaitlin Flynn, Information Technology Manager Irene Jeremic, Information Technology Analyst Jonathan, Ortiz, Nathan Diaz-Rolon, and Commission Clerks Sheri-Lyn Lagueux, Stephen Palmer and Cynthia Ortiz.

VIII. Consideration of Matters Discussed in the above Executive Session

At 10:51 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: Necessary to Investigate Determination pursuant to General Statutes §9-7a

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the Recommendation of Counsel dated April 9, 2026, and requested that one (1) matter be moved to be investigated.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to one (1) complaint, File No. 2026-012. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

2. In the Matter of a Commission Initiated Investigation Into Re: Lisa Milone, ROV, New Haven
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel and to adopt the following motion: The Commission pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (1) directs staff to open an investigation and also finds it necessary to investigate potential election law violations by New Haven Registrar of Voters Lisa Milone in connection with the November 4, 2025 election.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to adopt the above motion and initiate an investigation. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

3. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State, Hartford
File No. 2024-021

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2024-021. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2024-021 as to a henceforth order and that Respondent shall pay a civil penalty in the amount of one thousand two hundred dollars in full settlement of this matter and that the

aforesaid penalty is remitted due to an adequate showing of financial exigency by Respondent. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Michael Companik, Torrington
In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State, Hartford
File Nos. 2025-061B & 2025-107B
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Johnny Ross, III

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

Attorney Johnny Ross, III summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File Nos. 2025-061B & 2025-107B. 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 in File Nos. 2025-061B & 2025-107B. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

Commissioner Ajello recused himself from this discussion.

5. In the Matter of Complaint by Michael Companik, Torrington
File No. 2025-061C
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Johnny Ross, III

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

Attorney Johnny Ross, III summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2025-061C. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2025-061C. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

Commissioner Ajello recused himself from this discussion.

6. In the Matter of a Referral by Elisa Beckett-Flores & Dan McDermott
File No. 2025-113
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Johnny Ross III

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

The matter is continued.

7. In the Matter of a Referral by Stephaie Thomas, Hartford
In the Matter of a Referral by the Registrar of Voters, East Haven
File Nos. 2024-086 & 2024-092B
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Zak Jazlowiecki
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith on behalf of Attorney Zak Jazlowiecki summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File Nos. 2024-086 & 2024-092B. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement upon receipt in ten (10) days in File Nos. 2024-086 & 2024-092B. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

Commissioner Bergquist recused herself from this discussion.

8. In the Matter of a Self-Initiated Investigation by the SEEC "*Etan Hirsch for the 119th*," Hartford
File No. 2026-005
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Mario Borelli
Legal Investigator: Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

The matter is continued.

9. In the Matter of a Complaint by Suzanne Flynn, Meriden
File No. 2025-101
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Mario Borelli
Investigator: Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

The matter is continued.

10. Recommendation of Counsel – Omnibus Recommendation on 2020 and 2022 SEEC Initiated Audit Referrals
File Nos. 2023-079I, 2023-127, 2024-031, 2024-060, 2024-061, 2023-079S, 2024-036C and 2024-036E
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Mario Borelli
Legal Investigator: Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

The matter is continued.

11. Recommendation of Counsel – Reconsideration of Commission Dismissal Processes
Attorney: William B. Smith

No action was taken.

IX. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare at 11:14 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.