



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

**June 3, 2026**  
**9:30 A.M.**

***I. Call to Order***

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

***II. Approval of the Minutes***

*1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of May 28, 2026*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of *May 28, 2026*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

***III. Administrative Reports***

*1. Report of Executive Director and General Counsel Ryan Burns*

Executive Director Burns reported that staff across Compliance, Candidate Services, and audit units have been extremely busy launching this year's CEP season, made more challenging by new Public Act 25-26 requirements. Despite the workload, candidates and treasurers have offered unsolicited praise, and staff efforts are formally commended.

Executive Director Burns updated that in Enforcement, there are 180 pending enforcement matters: 49 non-filers, 36 referrals on hold, and 102 complaints, referrals, and SEEC-initiated investigations. No general election audits are outstanding, and none are expected before March 2027. Work on Special Election Audits continues, with a full memorandum expected in two weeks.

Executive Director Burns advised that the agency has received 43 grant applications this season; 2 were previously approved, and 18 are up for

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consideration today. In total, this represents 6–8% of total grant applications and reflects extensive preseason PAR preparation and strong staff diligence.

Executive Director Burns reported that audit lottery regulations are under review by the Attorney General’s Office, with feedback expected within one to two weeks. As this is the second submission with prior comments addressed, the process is expected to progress smoothly once the formal response is received.

Executive Director Burns updated that the Fiscal team is managing year-end purchasing, expenditures, and legislative salary adjustments, including retroactive payments, while supporting grants, disbursements, and uninterrupted payroll.

Executive Director Burns advised that IT staff are updating decade-old document scanning systems that are no longer interfaced with upgraded agency systems. Integrating new hardware and software has been more complex than anticipated. IT simultaneously supports fiscal closeout and assisting staff agency-wide.

***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 Bergquist at 9:38 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, Zak Jazlowiecki, Maryam Bitar, Aaron Charney, Patricia Mwilwa, Legal Investigators Stephaie Fish, Ronald Perry, Scott Branfuhr, Elections Officer Kaitlin Flynn, Information Technology Manager Irene Jeremic, Information Technology Analyst Nathan Diaz-Rolon, Human Resource Generalist III Charla Vincent, Fiscal Administrative Supervisor Shauna Khang and Commission Clerks Stephen Palmer, Sheri-Lyn Lagueux and Cynthia Ortiz.

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

At 9:43 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.

## ***VI. Consideration of Application for Public Grants from the Citizens' Election Fund***

### ***A. New Applications***

1. *"Team Tong", William Tong*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *"Team Tong", William Tong*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

2. *"Jim Jinks for CT", Jim Jinks*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to continue without prejudice the grant application for *"Jim Jinks for CT", Jim Jinks*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

3. *"DeCaprio4CT48th", Mark DeCaprio*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the grant application for *"DeCaprio4CT48th", Mark DeCaprio*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

*Commission Bergquist lost service 9:45am*

4. *"Mark4CT", Mark Anderson*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the grant application for *"Mark4CT", Mark Anderson*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

5. *"Santanella for CT", John Santanella*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the grant application for *"Santantella for CT", John Santanella*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

6. *“Saud Anwar for State Senate 2026”, Saud Anwar*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *“Saud Anwar for State Senate 2026”, Saud Anwar*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

7. *“Sujata for Connecticut”, Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *“Sujata for Connecticut”, Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

8. *“Friends of Meghan Rosenfeld”, Meghan Rosenfeld*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *“Friends of Meghan Rosenfeld”, Meghan Rosenfeld*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

9. *“Keitt 2026”, Sara Keitt*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *“Keitt 2026”, Sara Keitt*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

10. *“Rebecca For Rep 2026”, Rebecca Martinez*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *“Rebecca for Rep 2026”, Rebecca Martinez*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

11. *“Tracy Marra for State Representative”, Tracy Marra*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *“Tracy Marra for State Representative”, Tracy Marra*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

12. *“TZ2026”, Tami Zawistowski*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to approve the grant application for *“TZ2026”, Tami Zawistowski*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

13. *“Geoff 2026”, Geoffrey Luxenberg*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *“Geoff 2026”, Geoffrey Luxenberg*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

14. *“Grosso2026”, Michael Grosso*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *“Grosso2026”, Michael Grosso*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

15. *“Jason Buchsbaum 2026”, Jason Buchsbaum*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *“Jason Buchsbaum 2026”, Jason Buchsbaum*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

16. *“Rutigliano for Trumbull”, David Rutigliano*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *“Rutigliano for Trumbull”, David Rutigliano*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0

17. *“Sampson for CT”, Rob Sampson*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *“Sampson for CT”, Rob Sampson*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0

18. *“Vote LaMark Muir”, Mary Renee LaMark Muir*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *“Vote: LaMark Muir”, Mary Renee LaMark Muir*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0

**VII. Pending Complaints and Investigations**

**A. Public Session**

1. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of State, New Haven  
File Nos. 2025-142A & 2025-142B  
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondents:

Shannel Evans and  
Lisa Milone  
Mario Borelli  
Stephanie Fish

Attorney:

Legal Investigator:

Attorney Mario Borelli summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File Nos. 2025-142A & 2025-142B. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Orders & Agreements in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Consent Orders & Agreements in 2025-142A & 2025-142B. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

2. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of State, New Haven  
File No. 2025-043  
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement  
Respondent: Tony Mammone  
Attorney: Mario Borelli  
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

Attorney Mario Borelli summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2025-043. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2025-043. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

***VIII. 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 Bergquist at 10:40 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 X-X-X.

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, Enforcement Director William Smith, Staff Attorneys Mario Borelli, Johny Ross, III, Zak Jazlowiecki, Maryam Bitar, Aaron Charney, Patricia Mwilwa, Legal Investigators Stephaine Fish, Ronald Perry, Elections Officer Kaitlin Flynn, Information Technology Manager Irene Jeremic, Information Technology Analyst Nathan Diaz-Rolon, Human Resource Generalist III Charla Vincent, Fiscal Administrative Supervisor Shauna Khang and Commission Clerks Stephen Palmer, Sheri-Lyn Lagueux and Cynthia Ortiz.

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

At 10:34 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 June 3, 2026 and requested that seven (7) matters be moved to be investigated.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to take a determination that it is necessary to investigate five (5) violations relating to complaints, File Nos. 2026-051, 2026-052, 2026-053, 2026-064 & 2026-065. So approved by the Commission. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to take a determination that it is necessary to investigate one (1) violation relating to complaints, File No. 2026-054. So approved by the Commission. So voted by a vote of 4-0-1, with Commissioner Ajello abstaining.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to take a determination that it is necessary to investigate one (1) violation relating to complaints, File No., 2026-055. So approved by the Commission. So voted by a vote of 4-0-1, with Commissioner Picuch abstaining.

2. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State, Scotland  
File Nos. 2025-135A & 2025-135B  
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Mario Borelli

Legal Investigator:

Ronald Perry

The matter is continued for File Nos. 2025-135A & 2025-135B.

3. In the Matter of a Referral by the Republican Registrar, Fairfield  
File No. 2024-077  
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Zak Jazlowiecki

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

Attorney Zak Jazlowiecki summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2024-077. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2024-077. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

4. In the Matter of a Referral by the Registrar of Voters, Waterbury  
File No. 2025-065  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Zak Jazlowiecki  
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

Attorney Zak Jazlowiecki summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2025-065. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2025-065. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

**X. *Executive Session per General Statutes §§ 1- 231 and 1-200 (6) (A)***  
*(Discussion of personnel matters concerning the performance of an employee)*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist at 11:10 A.M. to proceed into Executive Session pursuant to General Statutes §§ 1-231 and 1-200 (6) (A) to discuss matters of personnel concerning the performance of an employee. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

Commissioners Penny, Ajello, Asare, Bergquist and Picuch were present via Teams. Staff members present via Teams were: Executive Director and General Counsel Ryan Burns, Human Resource Generalist III Charla Vincent and Fiscal Administrative Supervisor Shauna Khang.

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

At 10:10 A.M., the Commissioners came out of Executive Session and noted that no matters were decided and no vote was taken during Executive Session.

Returning to public session, the Commission took the following action: Commissioner Penny stated that the Commission will submit a new CT-HR-30 (Request for an Unclassified Salary Adjustment), concerning Executive Director Burns to update his compensation to include all adjustments included in the recently passed state employee wage packages, including a 2.5% COLA adjustment retroactive to July 2025 and an annual increment retroactive to January 2026.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the submission of the CT-HR-30. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

***XII. Adjournment***

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist at 11:11 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.

***The next regular scheduled meeting is June 10, 2026, at 3:30 P.M.***