



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

DRAFT MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
September 16, 2026
9:30 AM

I. Call to Order

Chairman Ajello was present via Teams and called the meeting to order at 9:32 A.M. Commissioners Shannon Bergquist, Greg Piecuch and Cornelius McCarthy were present via Teams. Agency staff were also present and present via Teams.

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to amend the agenda and add as V.B.5. "*Kyle Anderson for State Rep*," Kyle Anderson; V.B.6. "*Friends of Josh James*", Josh James Beaupre; V.B.7. "*Heffernan for West Haven 2026*", William Heffernan III; V.B.8. "*Re-Elect Trenee McGee*", Trenee McGee; and under VI.A.5. In the Matter of a Commission Initiated Investigation of "*BobHforthe58th*", File No. 2025-144A. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

II. Approval of the Minutes

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 2, 2026

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of *September 2, 2026*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 10, 2026

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of *September 10, 2026*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

III. Administrative Reports

1. Report of Executive Director and General Counsel Ryan Burns

Executive Director and General Counsel Ryan Burns updated the Commission on the Ricci v. SEEC. This lawsuit concerns an appeal of our dismissal of a complaint and the definition of a chief executive of a municipality. We have filed, through the Office of the Attorney General, a Motion to Dismiss in the matter, however the litigation is ongoing.

Executive Director Burns reported that the agency has been an active participant in the Elections Security Working Group. The agency is one of several state agencies that have been involved with developing communication protocols, training and contingency plans to ensure the safe and efficient administration of the election.

Executive Director Burns advised, on the enforcement side, there are 164 cases on the docket; 36 are on hold for referrals to our law enforcement partners; 36 are non-filers; and 96 are active complaints, referrals and SEEC initiated matters. Over the next few months, staff expects the docket to grow, primarily because the agency receives a bulk of complaints in the weeks surrounding the election, both before and after.

On the grant side, there are 285 grants awarded and out the door. Sixteen grant applications are pending with nine up for consideration today. This is the very tail end of our CEP season and staff does not expect many more, if any, grant applications to come in at this point. Additionally, the meeting scheduled for tomorrow can be cancelled.

***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)***

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. *"Ciccone for 98," Carlyle Ciccone*

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Piccuch to continue without prejudice the grant application for *"Ciccone for 98," Carlyle Ciccone*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

B. Continuation of Prior Applications Awaiting Additional Information to Qualify for a Grant

1. *"Brian 45," Brian Lanoue*

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Piccuch to approve the grant application for *"Brian 45," Brian Lanoue*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. *"Barry 2026," Jill Barry*

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Piccuch to approve the grant application for *"Barry 2026," Jill Barry*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

3. *"Doug for CT," Doug Dubitsky*

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Piccuch to approve the grant application for *"Doug for CT," Doug Dubitsky*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

4. *"Alexandra Thomas for the 67th," Alexandra Thomas*

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Piccuch to approve the grant application for *"Alexandra Thomas for the 67th," Alexandra Thomas*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

5. *"Kyle Anderson for State Rep," Kyle Anderson*

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Piccuch to approve the grant application for *"Kyle Anderson for State Rep," Kyle Anderson*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

It was moved by Commissioner Piccuch and seconded by Commissioner McCarthy to adopt the following motion: Pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a), the Commission moves, on its own initiative, to initiate an investigation into possible violations of Chapter 155, and the requirements of Chapter 157 of the General Statutes concerning *Kyle Anderson for State Rep*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

6. *"Friends of Josh James", Josh James Beaupre*

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Piccuch to approve the grant application for *"Friends of Josh James", Josh James Beaupre*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

7. *“Heffernan for West Haven 2026”, William Heffernan III*

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Piccuch to approve the grant application for *“Heffernan for West Haven 2026”, William Heffernan III*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

8. *“Re-Elect Trennee McGee”, Trennee McGee*

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Piccuch to approve the grant application for *“Re-Elect Trennee McGee”, Trennee McGee*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

VI. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by William Sayers, Benjamin Shaiken & Raymond Wishart
In the Matter of Self-Initiated Investigations by the SEEC
File Nos. 2025-062, 2026-034, 2026-039 & 2026-040
Proposed Consent Order Containing Agreement
Respondent: William L. Jenkins
Attorneys: Johnny Ross, III and Mario Borelli
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

Attorney Johnny Ross, III summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order Containing Agreement in File No. File Nos. 2025-062, 2026-034, 2026-039 & 2026-040. He recommended adoption of the Consent Order Containing Agreement in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Piccuch to adopt the Proposed Consent Order Containing Agreement in File Nos. 2025-062, 2026-034, 2026-039 & 2026-040. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Jackie Heftman, Stamford
File No. 2025-100A
Proposed Consent Order Containing Agreement
Respondent: Griffin Handley
Attorney: Mario Borelli
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Mario Borelli summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order Containing Agreement in File No. 2025-100A. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order Containing Agreement in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Consent Order Containing Agreement in 2025-100A. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Jackie Heftman, Stamford
File No. 2025-100B
Proposed Notice of Dismissal
Respondent:
Attorney:
Legal Investigator:

Fritz Chery
Mario Borelli
Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Mario Borelli summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2025-100B. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Notice of Dismissal in 2025-100B. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

4. In the Matter of a Referral by the Republican Registrar, Brooklyn
File No. 2024-080
Proposed Consent Order Containing Agreement
Respondent:
Attorney:
Legal Investigator:

Paul Manocchio
Mario Borelli
Stephanie Fish

Attorney Mario Borelli summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order Containing Agreement in File No. 2024-080. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order Containing Agreement in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Consent Order Containing Agreement in 2024-080. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

5. In the Matter of a Commission Initiated Investigation of “BobHforthe58th,”
Hartford
File No. 2025-144A
Proposed Consent Order Containing Agreement

Respondent:
Attorney:
Legal Investigator:

Robert Hendrickson
William B. Smith
Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order Containing Agreement in File No. 2025-144A. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order Containing Agreement in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Consent Order Containing Agreement in 2025-144A. So voted by a vote of 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
(Preliminary draft and agency consideration of enforcement action and exempt records relative thereto)***

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch at 9:53 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 Ajello, Bergquist, Piecuch and McCarthy 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 Disclosure & Audit Salman Munir, Associate Accounts Examiner Kysta Palozie, Enforcement Director William B. Smith, Staff Attorneys Mario Borelli, Johnny 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, and Commission Clerk Stephen Palmer.

VIII. Consideration of Matters Discussed in the above Executive Session

At 10:02 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 September 10, 2026 and requested that four (4) matters be moved to be investigated.

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to complaints, File No. 2026-099, 2026-100, 2026-101 and 2026-102. So approved by the Commission. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. Recommendation of Counsel: Litigation Update

Attorney:

William B. Smith

No action was taken.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Elizabeth A. DeMatteo, New Haven

File No. 2025-133

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Johnny Ross, III

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Alyssa S. Peterson, Hartford

File No. 2026-055

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Johnny Ross, III

Legal Investigator:

Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

Attorney Johnny Ross, III summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2026-055. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2026-055. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

5. In the Matter of a Referral by the Audit & Disclosure Unit of the SEEC

In the Matter of a Referral by the Audit & Disclosure Unit of the SEEC

File Nos. 2026-078 & 2026-094

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Zak Jazlowiecki

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Zak Jazlowiecki summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File Nos. 2026-078 & 2026-094. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Notice of Dismissal in File Nos. 2026-078 & 2026-094. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

6. In the Matter of a Referral by the Town Clerk, Bethany
File No. 2025-047

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Zak Jazlowiecki

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

IX. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch at 10:05 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.

The next regular scheduled meeting is September 23, 2026 at 3:30 PM.