



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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**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>)**

**January 21, 2026**

**9:30 A.M.**

***I. Call to Order***

Commissioner Penny was present via Webex and called the meeting to order at 9:32 A.M. Commissioners Shannon Bergquist, Michael Ajello and Greg Piecuch were present via Webex. Agency staff were also present and present via Webex.

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

***1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of January 7, 2026***

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of January 7, 2026. So voted by a vote of 3-0-1, with Piecuch abstaining.

***2. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of January 14, 2026***

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of January 14, 2026. So voted by a vote of 3-0-1, with Bergquist abstaining.

***III. Administrative Reports***

***Executive Director and General Counsel Report – Ryan Burns***

Following last week's extended administrative meeting, we've continued our efforts to meet with the appointing authorities for each commissioner.

Two of those meetings took place yesterday and were highly productive, providing valuable insights. We will maintain and strengthen these relationships both individually and as an agency.

At this point, we've connected with all five appointing authorities, and the remaining two meetings are scheduled for next week. Additionally, we're working to schedule meetings with the members of the GAE Committee and other legislative leaders.

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On the administrative side, our IT department will be reaching out to schedule Teams training as we transition to that platform, with an early February target. Next week's special meeting will still be on Webex, and we anticipate a formal transition shortly thereafter.

**IV. Pending Complaints, Investigations and Audits**

**A. Public Session**

1. In the Matter of a Referral by the Campaign Disclosure and Audit Unit of the State Elections Enforcement Commission  
File Nos. 2023-041; 2023-111; 2024-143; 2024-152; 2024-159; 2025-018 & 2025-040  
Proposed Hearing Officer Notice  
Hearing Officer: Stephen T. Penny  
Respondent: Hannah J. Lemek  
Prosecutor: Johnny Ross, III

Hearing Officer Penny summarized the proposed final decision in File Nos. 2023-041; 2023-111; 2024-143; 2024-152; 2024-159; and 2025-018. With respect to File No. 2025-040, he recommended that the matter be dismissed.

It was moved by Commissioner Berquist and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Proposed Final Decision in File No. 2023-041; 2023-111; 2024-143; 2024-152; 2024-159; 2025-018 & 2025-040. So voted by a vote of 3-0-1, with Commissioner Penny abstaining.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Alberta Vitale, East Haven  
File No. 2024-133  
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement  
Respondent: Richard DePalma  
Attorney: Mario Borelli  
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

3. In the Matter of a Self-Initiated Investigation by the SEEC "2022 DAC House 114"  
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement  
File No. 2024-036A  
Respondent: Linda McDonough  
Attorney: Mario Borelli  
Legal Investigator: Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

Attorney Mario Borelli summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2024-036A. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2024-036A. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Anthony Guerrero, Waterbury  
File No. 2025-104  
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement  
Respondent: John Drewry  
Attorney: Mario Borelli  
Legal Investigator: Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

Attorney Mario Borelli summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2025-104. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2025-104. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

5. In the Matter of a Self-Initiated Investigation by SEEC: "Martinez for the 124<sup>th</sup>"  
File No. 2025-120  
Notice of Case Closure  
Attorney: Mario Borelli  
Legal Investigator: Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

Attorney Mario Borelli summarized the above referenced complaint and Notice of Case Closure in File No. 2025-120. He recommended adoption of the Notice of Case Closure in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Berquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Notice of Case Closure in File No. 2025-120. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

6. In the Matter of a Self-Initiated Investigation by SEEC: "Felipe 2024"  
File No. 2025-121  
Proposed Findings & Conclusions  
Attorney: Mario Borelli  
Legal Investigator: Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

Attorney Mario Borelli summarized the above referenced complaint and Notice of Case Closure in File No. 2025-121. He recommended adoption of the Notice of Case Closure in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Notice of Case Closure in File No. 2025-121. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Susan Wright, Chester  
In the Matter of a Referral by the Town Clerk, Chester  
File Nos. 2025-075 & 2025-084  
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:

Attorneys: Johnny Ross, III and Zak Jazloweicki

Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

Attorney Johnny Ross summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File Nos. 2025-075 and 2025-084. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File Nos. 2025-075 & 2025-084. So voted by a vote of 3-0-1, with Commissioner Piccuch abstaining.

8. Audit Reports

### 2022

1. "Jennings for CT 2022," Cynthia R. Jennings  
Accounts Examiner: Rhonda Salvatore
2. "Chaffee 2022," Brandon Chaffee  
Accounts Examiner: Krysta Palozie

Director of Campaign Disclosure and Audit Salman Munir provided an overview of the draft audit reports and recommended that the Commission make final items numbers 1 through 2.

It was moved Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to make the Audit Reports Final. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

- V. ***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 Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello at 9:51 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, Bergquist, Ajello, Asare and Piecuch were present via Webex. Staff members present via Webex were: Executive Director and General counsel Ryan Burns, Legal Program Director Shannon Clark Kief, Director of Disclosure and Audit Salman Munir, Associate Account Examiner Krysta Palozie; Staff Attorneys William Smith, Johnny Ross III, Joshua Foley, Aaron Charney, Maryam Bitar, Legal Investigators Scott Branfuhr, Ron Perry, Stephanie Fish, Elections Officers Evelyn Dillon and Kaitlin Flynn, Information Technology Manager Irene Jeremic, Information Technology Analyst Jonathan Ortiz, and Commission Clerks Sheri-Lyn Lagueux, Stephen Palmer and Cynthia Ortiz.

It is noted for the record that Commissioner Asare joined the meeting at 10:04 A.M.

At 10:26 A.M., the Commissioners came out of Executive Session and noted that no matters were decided and no vote was taken during Executive Session.

**VI. *Consideration of Matters Discussed in the above 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 January 15, 2026 and requested that the (9) matters be moved to be investigated.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Asare to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violation relating to the (1) complaint File No. 2025-134. So voted by a vote of 4-0-1, with Commissioner Ajello abstaining.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to the (8) complaints File No. 2025-135, 2025-136, 2025-138, 2025-139, 2025-140, 2025-141, 2025-142 and 2026-001. So approved by the Commission 5-0-0.

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the Recommendation of Counsel dated January 15, 2026 and requested that (1) matter not be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Berquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to make a determination that it is not necessary to investigate violation relating to the (1) complaint File No. 2025-137. So approved by the Commission 5-0-0.

2. In Re: Commission Initiated Investigation into “Tim For Connecticut 2018”

File No. 2023-009A

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

Attorney William Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2023-009A. He recommended adoption of the Notice of Case Closure in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Notice of Case Closure in File No. 2023-009A. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

3. In Re: Commission Initiated Investigation into “Tim For Connecticut 2018”

File No. 2023-009B

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

Attorney William Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2023-009B. He recommended adoption of the Notice of Case Closure in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Notice of Case Closure in File No. 2023-009B. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

4. In Re: Commission Initiated Investigation into “Goff 2022”

File No. 2025-059

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

Attorney William Smith summarized the above-mentioned complaint and Proposed Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2025-059. He recommended adoption of Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2025-059. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

5. In the Matter of a Referral of the Campaign Disclosure and Audit Unit of the SEEC  
File No. 2021-137NF  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Johnny Ross, III  
Attorney Johnny Ross summarized the above referenced matter and Proposed Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2021-137NF. He recommended adoption of the Notice of Case Closure in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Notice of Case Closure in File No. 2021-137NF. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

6. In the Matter of a Referral of the Campaign Disclosure and Audit Unit of the SEEC  
File Nos. 2023-012 & 2023-025  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Johnny Ross, III

Attorney Johnny Ross summarized the above referenced matter and Proposed Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2023-012. He recommended adoption of the Notice of Case Closure in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Notice of Case Closure in File No. 2023-012. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

Attorney Johnny Ross summarized the above referenced matter and Proposed Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2023-025. He recommended adoption of the Notice of Case Closure in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Notice of Case Closure in File No. 2023-025. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

7. In the Matter of a Referral of the Campaign Disclosure and Audit Unit of the SEEC  
File No. 2023-042  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Johnny Ross, III

Attorney Johnny Ross summarized the above referenced matter and Proposed Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2023-042. He recommended adoption of the Notice of Case Closure in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Notice of Case Closure in File No. 2023-042. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

8. In the Matter of a Referral of the Campaign Disclosure and Audit Unit of the SEEC  
File No. 2024-144  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Johnny Ross, III

Attorney Johnny Ross summarized the above referenced matter and Proposed Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2024-144. He recommended adoption of the Notice of Case Closure in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Notice of Case Closure in File No. 2024-144. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

9. In the Matter of a Complaint by Stephanie E. Donadio, Middletown  
File No. 2025-109  
Recommendation of Counsel  
Attorney: Johnny Ross, III  
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

Attorney Johnny Ross, III summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2025-109. He recommended adoption of the Findings and Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Findings and Conclusions in File No. 2025-109. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

## ***VII. Adjournment***

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello at 10:42 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.

  
Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

Clerk of the State Elections Enforcement Commission

**February 4, 2026**

Date approved

(By the State Elections Enforcement Commission)