



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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**MINUTES**  
**STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**  
**SPECIAL 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 28, 2026**

**3:30 P.M.**

***I. Call to Order***

Commissioner Penny was present via Webex and called the meeting to order at 3:33 P.M. Commissioners Shannon Bergquist, Sonia Asare, Michael Ajello and Greg Piecuch were present via Webex. Agency staff were also present and present via Webex.

Chairperson Penny noted for the record that Commissioner Asare joined the meeting at 3:35 P.M.

***II. Administrative Reports***

**1. Citizens' Election Program Overview – 2026 Election Cycle**

Executive Director and General Counsel Ryan Burns briefly summarized the 2026 CEP Overview, which includes the CPI adjustments for General Assembly races as required by statute.

***III. 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)***

**1. Consumer Price Index Adjustments to Limits on Meal Expenditures as Set Forth in Citizens' Election Program Regulations**

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello at 3:36 P.M. to proceed into Executive Session pursuant to 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 to discuss exempt records. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

Commissioners Penny, Ajello, Asare, Bergquist 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, Staff Attorneys Mario Borelli, Joshua Foley, Aaron Charney, Patricia Mwilwa, and Maryam Bitar, Legal Investigators Ron Perry and Stephanie Fish, Elections Officers Kailyn Flynn and Ashley Socquet, Information Technology Manager Irene Jeremic, Information Technology Analyst Renata Rydzeski, and Commission Clerks Sheri-Lyn Lagueux; Stephen Palmer, and Cynthia Ortiz.

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

At 3:42 P.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.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello that pursuant to Section 9-706-2 (c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, that for the 2026 election cycle, the Commission has reviewed the meal expenditure limits under the Citizens' Election Program as prescribed by Section 9-706-1 (a) (11) of the Regulations and deems it necessary to adjust them pursuant to the change in the consumer price index, during the period beginning on January 1, 2010, and ending on December 31, 2021 and that adjustment be \$25 for breakfast, \$30 for lunch, and \$45 for dinner. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

**V. *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**

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello at 3:44 P.M. to proceed into Executive Session pursuant to 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 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 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, Staff Attorneys Mario Borelli, Joshua Foley, Aaron Charney, Patricia Mwilwa, and Maryam Bitar, Legal Investigators Ron Perry and Stephanie Fish, Elections Officers Kailyn Flynn and Ashley Socquet, Information Technology Manager Irene Jeremic, Information Technology Analyst Renata Rydzeski, and Commission Clerks Sheri-Lyn Lagueux; Stephen Palmer, and Cynthia Ortiz.

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

At 3:46 P.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.

**A. *New Applications***

**1. *“Fazio for Connecticut, Inc.” Ryan Fazio***

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for “Fazio for Connecticut, Inc.”. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

**VII. *Adjournment***

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adjourn the meeting at 3:49 P.M. 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)