



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING

Via Teams

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>)

March 4, 2026

9:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Penny was present via Teams and called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. Commissioners Michael Ajello, Sonia Worell Asare and Greg Piecuch 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 February 18, 2026

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of *February 18, 2026* as amended. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

III. Administrative Reports

1. Report of Executive Director and General Counsel Ryan Burns

Director Burns reported that the past several weeks has been a very busy time for the agency. The IT unit is busy updating the agency's 47 systems; a recent update caused license issues for the commissioners. Temporary access was restored for this meeting, but commissioner licenses will go offline until next Wednesday while the vendor fixes the issue. IT staff has advised that additional system downtime is scheduled for Thursday of this week and will hopefully be minimal.

Director Burns advised that for the Audit & Disclosure Unit there are 34 pending audits. The audit & disclosure units' progress is strong and close to completion, which the agency is very excited about.

Director Burns provided a status update on the Enforcement unit. The unit currently has 28 matters as law enforcement holds, 7 collections, 36 non-filers and 101 active cases. A presentation on system and procedure updates will be provided at the upcoming in-person meeting in April.

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Director Burns reported that the Compliance unit is working on two major projects:

- The updated guidebook (included in the packet) which address the major changes from Public Act 25-26.
- Pre-application reviews for early-fundraising committees. Seventeen pre-application reviews are expected; three have already been received.

Director Burns advised that legislative activities have also been significant, including budget requests for FY 2027–2028 and testimony on audit timeliness. From recent testimony, lawmakers responded positively to the agency’s improved audit completion numbers.

Relative to the agency, key bills being monitored or supported:

- **HB 5253:** *Would give regulatory oversight of fire district voting; the agency has concerns about structure and feasibility.*
- **Deepfake AI bill:** *Does not assign regulatory responsibility to the agency; handled through civil authorities.*
- **HB 5352:** *Removes one-year limit on certain complex enforcement cases; restores authority to investigate straw contributions.*
- **HB 5344:** *Creates specialized venues in Hartford and Bridgeport for election-related cases.*
- **SB 298:** *Passed and signed; limits misuse of voter registration data and grants the agency civil penalty authority per violation.*
- **SB 387:** *Proposes creating a municipal election administration board that the agency would join.*

IV. Pending Complaints, Investigations and Audits

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Referral by Erica Canfield & LeReine Frampton, Newtown
File No. 2024-040

Proposed Consent Orders & Agreements

Respondents:

Christopher Melillo,
Christopher Moretti and Ella
Iszczyszyn

Attorney:

Zak Jazlowiecki

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

Attorney Zak Jazlowiecki summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Orders & Agreements in File No. 2024-040. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Orders & Agreements in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Proposed Consent Orders & Agreements in File No. 2024-040 as follows: Respondents Christopher Melillo and Christopher Moretti shall

henceforth strictly comply with General Statutes § 9-369b and shall each pay a civil penalty in the amount of Seventy-Five dollars (\$75.00) to the Commission within ten (10) days of the Commission's adoption of this Agreement Containing a Consent Order.

That Respondent Middle Gate School PTA shall henceforth strictly comply with General Statutes § 9-621 (c) and that the complaint is dismissed against Respondents Jim Ross Christopher Geissler and Melissa Beylouni. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. Audit Reports

2022

1. "*Aileen for the 78th*," *Aileen Abrams*
Accounts Examiner: Krysta Palozie

This audit matter is marked off.

2. "*Dafoe4District52*," *Gregg Dafoe*
Accounts Examiner: Rhonda Salvatore
3. "*KDW for Treasurer*," *Karen DuBois-Walton*
Accounts Examiner: Nicole Duffany
4. "*Mary Fay 4 CT*," *Mary Fay*
Accounts Examiner: Ergys Guni
5. "*Hartley 22*," *Joan Hartley*
Accounts Examiner: Patrick Dotse
6. "*Friends of Dominique Johnson 2022*," *Dominique E. Johnson, PhD*
Accounts Examiner: Patrick Dotse
7. "*McCrory for Senate*," *Douglas McCrory*
Accounts Examiner: Rhonda Salvatore
8. "*Corey 2022*," *Corey Paris*
Accounts Examiner: Patrick Dotse

2024

9. "*Canino for Torrington 2024*," *Joseph C. Canino*
Accounts Examiner: Nicole Duffany
10. "*Friends of Dominique Johnson*," *Dominique E. Johnson*
Accounts Examiner: Nicole Duffany

11. *“Friends of James Maroney,”* James J. Maroney
Accounts Examiner: Kyla Huband

12. *“Russell2024,”* Alden T. Russell, Jr.
Accounts Examiner: Patrick Dotse

Associate Accounts Examiner of Campaign Disclosure and Audit Krysta Palozie provided an overview of the draft audit reports and recommended that the Commission make final items numbers 2 through 12. Acceptance of the audit results was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch. 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 (Preliminary draft and agency consideration of enforcement action and exempt records relative thereto)

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch at 9:50 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 Piecuch were present via Teams. Staff members present via Teams were: Executive Director and General Counsel Ryan Burns, Legal Program Director Shannon Clark Kief, Associate Accounts Examiner Kysta Palozie, Enforcement Director William Smith, Staff Attorneys Mario Borelli, Johnny Ross, III, Zak Jazlowiecki, Maryam Bitar, Aaron Charney, Patricia Mwilwa, Legal Investigators Scott Branfuhr, Stephaie Fish, Ronald Perry, Elections Officer Kaitlin Flynn, Information Technology Manager Irene Jeremic, Information Technology Analyst Nathan Diaz-Rolon, and Commission Clerks Stephe Palmer, Cynthia Ortiz and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

VI. Consideration of Matters Discussed in the above Executive Session

At 10:30 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 February 26, 2026 and requested that one (1) matter be moved to be investigated.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Picuch to take a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to complaint, File No. 2026-006. So approved by the Commission. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State, Hartford
File No. 2025-138
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

The matter is continued.

3. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State, Hartford
In the Matter of a Referral by Alberta Vitale, East Haven
File Nos. 2024-086 & 2024-092
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Zak Jazlowiecki
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

4. In the Matter of a Referral by Barbara Breor & Lisa Losee, Litchfield
In the Matter of a Referral by Lisa Losee, Litchfield
File Nos. 2025-032 & 2025-036
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Zak Jazlowiecki
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

The matter is continued.

5. In the Matter of Referral by the Audit Unit of the SEEC, "Acri2022"
File No. 2024-036B
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Mario Borelli
Legal Investigator: Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

The matter is continued.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Brendan R. Connery, Wallingford
File No. 2026-004
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Mario Borelli
Legal Investigator: Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

Attorney Mario Borelli summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2026-004. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions as to a dismissal in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions as to a dismissal in File No. 2026-004. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

7. *Draft 2026 Citizens' Election Program (CEP) Guidebook for Participating Candidates*

No action was taken.

VII. *Adjournment*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Piecuch at 10:35 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.

Respectfully submitted by,



Sheri-Lyn Lagueux
Clerk of the State Elections Enforcement Commission

March 18, 2026

Date approved

(By the State Elections Enforcement Commission)