



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

**AMENDED 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 18 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 Asare, and Shannon Bergquist were present via Teams. Agency staff were also present via Teams.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Asare to amend the agenda and add File Nos. 2024-086A and 2024-092A. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

II. *Approval of the Minutes*

1. *Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of March 4, 2026*

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Asare to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of March 4, 2026. So voted by a vote of 3-0-1, Commissioner Bergquist abstaining.

III. *Administrative Reports*

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

Executive Director and General Counsel Ryan Burns provided the Commission with several updates.

The legislature's Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee recently voted unanimously to advance the Governor's nomination of Commissioner Asare.

Today Commission staff will be holding an all-hands staff meeting; the first of 2026, for professional development and team building purposes.

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Commission staff have been asked to participate once again in the statewide Election Security Task Force ahead of this year's elections.

The agency's IT team has been busy with a number of upgrades to licenses, infrastructure, and other technology matters. IT is also working on the statewide website accessibility project.

The Audit and Disclosure Unit recently welcomed back Director Munir and we all extend to him and his family our condolences on their recent loss. The audit team is on track to complete all outstanding audits prior to the start of the CEP season in May.

There are currently 172 total enforcement cases on the Commission's docket with 103 open active complaints.

The Candidate Services and Compliance units are busy this Spring with Pre-Application Reviews of potential participating CEP candidates.

Lastly, Commission staff continues to monitor the legislative session and provide testimony where appropriate.

IV. Pending Complaints, Investigations and Audits

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Self-Initiated Investigation by the SEEC "Acri2022", Hartford File No. 2024-036B
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondent: Lisa Milone
Attorney: Mario Borelli
Legal Investigator: Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

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

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

2. Audit Reports

2022

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

2024

2. "Lucy 2024," Lucia "Lucy" S. Dathan
Accounts Examiner: Patrick Dotse
3. "Shaun for State Senate," Shaun Mastroianni
Accounts Examiner: Nicole Duffany

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 3. Acceptance of the audit results was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Asare. 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 Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Asare at 9:49 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, Bergquist, and Asare were present via Teams. Staff members present via Teams were: Executive Director and General Counsel Ryan Burns, Legal Program Director Shannon Clark Kief, Senior Counsel Joshua Foley, Director of Campaign Disclosure & Audit Salman Munir, Associate Accounts Examiner Krysta Palozie, Staff Attorneys Johnny Ross, III, Zak Jazlowiecki, Mario Borelli, Aaron Charney, Maryam Bitar, Legal Investigators Scott Branfuhr, Ron Perry, Stephanie Fish, Elections Officer Kaitlin Flynn, Information Technology Manager Irene Jeremic, Information Technology Analyst Nathan Diaz-Rolan, and Commission Clerks Stephen Palmer, and Cynthia Ortiz.

VI. Consideration of Matters Discussed in the above Executive Session

At 10:57 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 Mario Borelli on behalf of William B. Smith summarized the Recommendation of Counsel dated March 3, 2026, and requested that two (2) 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 violations relating to two (2) complaints, File Nos. 2026-007 & 2026-008. 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

Attorney Mario Borelli summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2025-138. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Asare to adopt the Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2025-138. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Rand Stanley, Broad Brook
File Nos. 2025-035A & 2025-035B
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney: Mario Borelli
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

Attorney Mario Borelli summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File Nos. 2025-035A. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement as to respondent Menard in this matter.

Attorney Mario Borelli summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in 2025-035B. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions as to respondent Sevarino in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Asare to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2025-035A and to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2025-035B. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda D'Alessio, Wolcott
File No. 2025-132
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney:

Mario Borelli
Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

Legal Investigator:

Attorney Mario Borelli summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2025-132. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Asare to adopt the Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2025-132. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Michelle Ray, Hebron
In the Matter of a Complaint by Jason L. Guidone, Hebron
File Nos. 2025-110 & 2025-125
Recommendation of Counsel

Mario Borelli
Stephanie Fish

Attorney:

Legal Investigator:

Attorney Mario Borelli summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File Nos. 2025-110A and 2025-125A. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement as to Elizabeth Fitzgerald in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Asare to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement as to Elizabeth Fitzgerald in File Nos. 2025-110A and 2025-125A. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

Attorney Mario Borelli summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File Nos. 2025-110B and 2025-125B. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Reason to Believe finding in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Asare to adopt the following motion: That the Commission has reason to believe that Respondent Michele May, in the matter of File Nos. 2025-110B and 2025-125B, violated Connecticut General Statutes § 9-244 (a), by failing to provide written notice to the chairs of the town party committees at least one day before testing began on the tabulators for the November 2025, municipal election. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0. Commissioner Asare is appointed as Hearing Officer.

6. In the Matter of a Referral by Jim Newton and Nancy Martucci, Madison
File No. 2023-113
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Zak Jazlowiecki
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

The matter is continued.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Alberta Vitale, East Haven
File No. 2024-155
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Zak Jazlowiecki
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Zac Jazlowiecki summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2024-155. He recommended adoption of the Notice of Case Closure in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Asare to adopt the Notice of Case Closure in File No. 2024-155. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

8. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State, Hartford
File No. 2024-108
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Johnny Ross, III
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Johnny Ross III summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2024-108. He recommended adoption of the Notice of Case Closure in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Asare to adopt the Notice of Case Closure in File No. 2024-108. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

9. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State, Hartford
File No. 2025-063
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Johnny Ross, III
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

Commissioner Ajello recused himself from this matter.

Attorney Johnny Ross III summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2025-063. He recommended adoption of

the Notice of Case Closure in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Asare to adopt the Notice of Case Closure in File No. 2025-063. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

10. In the Matter of a Complaint by Michael Companik, Torrington

File No. 2025-061

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Johnny Ross, III

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

The matter is continued

11. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State, Hartford

File No. 2025-107

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Johnny Ross, III

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

The matter is continued.

12. In the Matter of a Complaint by Alida Cella, Wallingford

File No. 2024-086A & 2024-092A

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Zak Jazlowiecki

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Commissioner Bergquist recused herself from this matter.

Attorney Zak Jazlowiecki summarized the above referenced matters and Recommendation of Counsel in File Nos. 2024-086A & 2024-092A. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order and Agreement in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to adopt the Consent Order and Agreement in File Nos. 2024-086A and 2024-092A, pending receipt within ten days. So voted by a vote of 3-0-0.

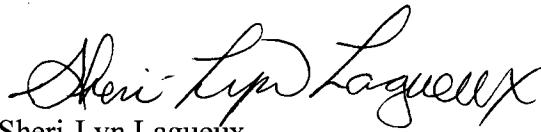
13. Draft Declaratory Ruling 2026-01 – Petition of Jeffrey Zyjeski

Executive Director and General Counsel Ryan Burns summarized the above referenced petition for Declaratory Ruling and requested that the Draft Declaratory Ruling 2026-01, Petition of Jeffrey Zyjeski, be posted and made available for public comment.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Asare to instruct staff to have the proposed draft declaratory ruling posted on the Commission's website and made available for public comment. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

VII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Bergquist and seconded by Commissioner Asare at 11:34 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.



Sheri-Lyn Lagueux
Clerk of the State Elections Enforcement Commission

April 1, 2026
Date approved
(By the State Elections Enforcement Commission)