



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING

Via Teams

Additional Methods to Attend This Meeting Included:

YouTube (<https://youtube.com/@ctseec>)

Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ctseec/live>)

April 1, 2026

9:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Penny was present via Teams and called the meeting to order at 9:31 A.M. Commissioners Sonia Worell Asare, Shannon Bergquist 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 March 18, 2026

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of *March 18, 2026*, as amended. So voted by a vote of 3-0-1 with Commissioner Piecuch abstaining.

III. Administrative Reports

1. Report of Executive Director and General Counsel Ryan Burns

Executive Director Burns gave an abbreviated report as the Commission's quarterly in-person meeting concerning administration and operations is scheduled for April 8th, 2026. Director Burns did report that the United States Department of Justice was successful in their prosecution of former Senator Dennis Bradley. That matter that was initially investigated by our office and concerned misrepresentations in order to receive a grant from the Citizens' Election Program. As the case has not gone through sentencing Director Burns urged caution about making any comments about the substance of the case, but did want to extend the Commission's deep gratitude to the Department of Justice, the United States Attorney United States Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for their efforts over many years to prosecute this case. Director Burns also wanted to recognize all the hard work of the staff, both former and current, that worked on this case. Director Burns specifically recognized Richard Bramande and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux who provided valuable testimony in the case in that case. Investigator Lagueux's contributions were specifically highlighted as her testimony extended over three

days and her contributions as a witness in preparation had occurred over the several years that this case was pending.

IV. Pending Complaints, Investigations and Audits

A. Public Session

1. Audit Reports

2022

1. "*Eva4Senate*," Eva Bermundez Zimmerman
Accounts Examiner: Rhonda Salvatore
2. "*Dyer for House*," Matt Dyer
Accounts Examiner: Saadah Junood

2024

3. "*Aram Ayalon for State Representative*," Aram Ayalon
Accounts Examiner: Ergys Guni
4. "*PC108*," Patrick E Callahan
Accounts Examiner: Rhonda Salvatore
5. "*Cooley for Connecticut 2024*," Francis R Cooley
Accounts Examiner: Kyla Huband
6. "*Cormier for Change 24*," Robert F. Cormier
Accounts Examiner: Rhonda Salvatore
7. "*Friends of Bob Duff*," Bob Duff
Accounts Examiner: Kyla Huband
8. "*Hyland for the 90th*," Rebecca Hyland
Accounts Examiner: Ergys Guni
9. "*Robertson for State Senate*," Christopher R Robertson
Accounts Examiner: Patrick Dotse
10. "*Mama Gwen 2024*," Gwen Samuel
Accounts Examiner: Saadah Junood

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 10. Acceptance of the audit results was moved by

Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist. 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 Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist at 9:39 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, Asare, Bergquist and Piecuch 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 Campaign Disclosure and Audit Salman Munir, Associate Accounts Examiner Kysta Palozie, Enforcement Director William Smith, Staff Attorneys Mario Borelli, Johny Ross, III, Zak Jazlowiecki, Patricia Mwilwa, Aaron Charney, Maryam Bitar, Legal Investigators Scott Branfuhr, Ronald Perry, Elections Officer, Information Technology Manager Irene Jeremic, Information Technology Analysts Renata Rydzewski, Nathan Diaz-Rolon, and Commission Clerks Stephen Palmer and Cynthia Ortiz.

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

At 10:31 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 March 27, 2026, and requested that three (3) matters be moved to be investigated.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to 1 complaint, File No. 2026-009. So approved by the Commission. So voted by a vote of 3-0-1 with Commissioner Penny abstaining as he recused himself from discussions.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to two complaints, File No. 2026-010 and 2026-011. So approved by the Commission. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. In the Matter of a Referral by ROV Elissa Beckett-Flores, New Fairfield
File No. 2025-119

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. 2025-119. He recommended adoption of the following motion: That the Commission has reason to believe that Respondent Jennifer Pappas, in the matter of File No. 2025-119, violated Connecticut General Statutes § 9-236(d) and § 9-261(e) by failing to leave the polling place after voting in the November 2025 municipal election.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Reason to Believe finding in File No. 2025-119. So voted by a vote of 3-0-1 with Commissioner Piecuch abstaining. Commissioner Piecuch has been appointed as Hearing Officer.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Jonathan Webster, Easton
File Nos. 2025-069, 2025-070 & 2025-071

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Johnny Ross, III

Legal Investigator:

Ronald Perry

Attorney Johnny Ross, III summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File Nos. 2025-069, 2025-070, & 2025-071. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Notice of Cases Closure in this matter. It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Notice of Cases Closure as amended in File Nos. 2025-069, 2025-070 & 2025-071. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Dawn Mattos, Griswold
In the Matter of a Complaint by Richard Canova, Griswold
In the Matter of a Complaint by Kim Coleman, Jewett City
In the Matter of a Complaint by Cathy Waselik, Jewett City
File Nos. 2025-078B, 2025-079, 2025-092 & 2025-097B

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Johnny Ross, III

Legal Investigator:

Ronald Perry

These matters were continued.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Dawn Matos, Griswold
In the matter of a Complaint by Cathy Waselik, Jewett City
File Nos. 2025-078A & 2025-097A
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Johnny Ross, III
Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

Attorney Johnny Ross, III summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File Nos. 2025-078A & 2025-097A. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Notice of Cases Closure as to respondent Cynthia Martin in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Notice of Cases Closure as to respondent Cynthia Martin in File Nos. 2025-078A & 2025-097A. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Michael Companik, Torrington
In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State
File Nos. 2025-061A & 2025-107A
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Johnny Ross, III
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

The matter is continued.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by John Storino, Litchfield
In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State, Hartford
File Nos. 2025-087 & 2025-139
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Zak Jazlowiecki
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

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

Attorney Zak Jazlowiecki summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File Nos. 2025-032 & 2025-036. He

recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement upon receipt in ten (10) days in File Nos. 2025-032 & 2025-036. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

9. In the Matter of a Referral by Stephanie Thomas, Hartford
In the Matter of a Referral by the Registrar of Voters, East Haven
File Nos. 2024-086 & 2024-092B

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Zak Jazlowiecki

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter is marked off.

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

Attorney:

Maryam Bitar

Attorney Maryam Bitar summarized the above Draft Declaratory Ruling 2026-01 and recommended it be made final.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt and make final the draft declaratory ruling as follows: Pursuant to General Statutes section 4-176(e) and Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies §9-7b-65(c) it is hereby resolved and ordered that declaratory ruling 2026-01 entitled “The Application of Public Act 24-26 to Personal Campaign Contributions by In-House lobbyists of U.S. Subsidiaries of Foreign Corporations” concerning the petition received by the Commission on October 29, 2025 from attorney Jeffries Zyjeski, adopted and issued as a final declaratory ruling of the Commission. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

11. Draft *2026 Citizen’s Election Program (CEP) Guidebook for Non-Participating Candidates*

Attorney:

Maryam Bitar

No action was taken

VII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist at 10:55 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 15, 2026

Date approved

(By the State Elections Enforcement Commission)