



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
QUARTERLY IN-PERSON MEETING

Additional Methods to Attend This Meeting Included:

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

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

April 8, 2026 9:30 A.M.

55 Farmington Ave., Room 1008, Hartford, CT 06105

I. *Call to Order*

Commissioner Penny was present and called the meeting to order at 9:32 A.M. Commissioners Shannon Bergquist and Greg Picuch were present. Agency staff were also present. Commissioner Sonia Worrell Asare was present via Teams.

II. *Administrative Reports*

1. *Report of Executive Director on Commission Functions and Operations*

Executive Director Burns provided a full agency administrative report. The agency had a productive second quarter of 2026, completing major updates to the CEP application process, resolving all outstanding audits for the April 15 meeting, modernizing IT systems, and strengthening partnerships across agencies. Preparation for the 2026 CEP grant season is well underway.

Operations of the Agency

Staffing A new Accounts Examiner, Tim Dede, joined SEEC on April 6, bringing the agency to full staffing for the first time in recent memory.

Interagency Relations - SEEC enhanced collaboration with the Secretary of the State, watchdog agencies, OPM, BITS, and multiple law enforcement entities including the FBI and DESPP. SEEC was again added to the Connecticut Election Security Task Force, supporting election security planning, exercises, and training.

External & Legislative Relations - SEEC maintained productive relationships with civic organizations and was active with legislative committees, communicating audit progress, enforcement priorities, and resource needs. Budget adjustments were favorable. Legislators expressed concern about audit timing, which SEEC has since addressed.

Fiscal - As of March 31, SEEC spent \$2.65M of its \$4.26M FY26 budget and expects a small surplus despite substantial IT investments.

Legislation - SEEC monitored or testified on numerous bills affecting elections, campaign finance, and agency oversight. Positions ranged from opposition (e.g., performance plan bill) to support (e.g., candidate committee banking requirements) to neutral with technical feedback.

Audit - The Audit Unit has been highly active:

- All outstanding post-election audits for 2022 and 2024 will be completed by the April 15 Commission meeting.
- The unit processed complex CEP gubernatorial convention grants and revised review procedures to comply with Public Act 25-26.
- PAR activity is increasing ahead of the May grant season.

Compliance - With 297 candidates registered for 2026, Compliance has focused on implementing Public Act 25-26, reviewing online contribution systems, conducting PARs, and developing improved training and communication for treasurers. Significant updates were made to CEP guidance materials. The unit also handled a large volume of advisory calls, filings, and regulatory updates.

Enforcement - The backlog reduction continued into 2026. At quarter's end, 173 cases were open, including non-filers, audit referrals, and criminal referrals. The unit plans further process improvements.

Information Technology - SEEC completed all four planned modernization phases for Quarter 1—Assessment, Critical Operations, Training, and Server Upgrades—meeting the April 30 deadline. Key accomplishments included server rebuilding, significant Laserfiche upgrades, new training, and major infrastructure fixes.

Quarter 2 will focus on workstation upgrades, VPN migration, broadcasting improvements, DocuSign rollout for commissioners, telecommunications audits, and continued modernization of legacy systems.

III. Public Session

1. Clerk of the Commission Process

Presenters:

Sheri-Lyn Lagueux &
Stephen Palmer

Sheri-Lyn Lagueux and Stephen Palmer provided the Commission with an overview of the commission clerk process within the agency. No action was taken.

2. *Complaint Process Outline*

Presenter:

Stephanie Fish

Stephanie Fish provided the Commission with an overview of the commission complaint process within the agency. No action was taken.

3. *Hearing Process*

Presenter:

William B. Smith

William Smith provided the Commission with an overview of the commission hearing process within the agency. No action was taken.

4. *Naming Conventions*

Presenter:

Zak Jazlowiecki

Zak Jazlowiecki provided the Commission with an overview of the proposed naming conventions within the agency. No action was taken.

5. *Subpoena Process*

Presenter:

William B. Smith

William Smith provided the Commission with an overview of the commission subpoena process within the agency. No action was taken.

IV. *Discussion of Agency Governance and Operations*

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 10:31 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 and Piecuch were present. Commissioner Asare was present via Teams. Staff members present were: Executive Director and General Counsel Ryan Burns, Senior Counsel Joshua Foley, Legal Program Director Shannon Clark Kief, Enforcement Director William Smith, Staff Attorneys Mario Borelli, Johny Ross, III, Zak Jazlowiecki, Patricia Mwilwa, Aaron Charney, Maryam Bitar, Legal Investigators Scott Branfuhr, Stephaie Fish, Ronald Perry, Elections Officer, Kaitlyn Flynn, Information Technology Manager Irene Jeremic, Information

Technology Analysts Renata Rydzewski, Nathan Diaz-Rolon, Jonathan Ortiz, and Commission Clerks Stephen Palmer, Sheri-Lyn Lagueux and Cynthia Ortiz.

VI. Consideration of Matters Discussed in the above Executive Session

At 11:30 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: Alternative Case Resolution Procedures

Presenter: Ryan M. Burns

No action was taken.

2. Recommendation of Counsel: Evolution Necessary to Investigate Determination Standard

Presenter: Ryan M. Burns

No action was taken.

3. Recommendation of Counsel: Consent Order Penalty Considerations

Presenters: Mario Borelli &
Zak Jazlowiecki

No action was taken.

VII. Timing & Content for the next in-person Quarterly Meeting

No action was taken.

VIII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist 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 15, 2026
Date approved
(By the State Elections Enforcement Commission)