



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES

STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

July 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 Michael Ajello, Shannon Bergquist, Greg Piecuch and Sonia Worell Asare were present via Teams. Agency staff were also present and present via Teams.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to add to the agenda in section VI. B. the grant applications for #2 "*Kathy Kennedy for the 118th*," Kathy Kennedy. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

II. Approval of the Minutes

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of June 17, 2026

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of *June 17, 2026*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-1 with Commissioner Ajello abstaining.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of June 25, 2026

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of *June 25, 2026*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

III. Administrative Reports

1. Report of Executive Director and General Counsel Ryan Burns

Executive Director Burns reported that two significant Supreme Court decisions were issued this past week:

- NRSC v. FEC – This ruling will allow greater coordination between political parties and candidates. Staff is currently reviewing the decision to determine any potential impacts on statutes and regulations within our jurisdiction.

- *Watson v. RNC* – The Court upheld the ability of states to continue counting absentee ballots postmarked by Election Day but received afterward. This does not require any changes to our current laws but remains relevant to our work.

Executive Director Burns updated that today marks the first day of the new fiscal year. The fiscal team is relieved to have the previous cycle completed and is actively preparing for the new year.

Executive Director Burns announced a new temporary staff member, Everett Padro, has joined to help during the CEP season, especially as paperwork volume continues to increase.

Executive Director Burns updated that for Professional Development, several staff attended the *Public Campaign Finance Administrators Conference* in New Haven two weeks ago. It was a valuable opportunity for collaboration, learning, and strengthening national networks in this niche area of law and administration.

Executive Director Burns reported on supplemental materials included with the packet including the *Sufficiency of the Fund Report*. This report shows projected funding needs based on potential election outcomes. No Commission action is required now, but the fund will be monitored closely throughout the season, with regular updates to the Commission and legislature.

Executive Director Burns provided Enforcement & Program Metrics regarding the Enforcement unit docket: there are currently 183 total cases, with 34 on hold, 49 non-filers and 105 active complaints, referrals, and SEEC-initiated matters.

Executive Director Burns provided public financing grants updates: 105 grants have already been issued — which is about three weeks ahead of prior years' pace and represents roughly one-third of the total expected grants. 32 applications are pending with 20 for consideration today and 12 new or continued applications.

IV. 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)

Executive Session was not convened.

1. Recommendation of Counsel: Discussion of Candidate Committee Validation Memoranda

No action was taken.

V. Consideration of Application for Public Grants from the Citizens' Election Fund

A. New Applications

1. *"JUSTIN FOR CT 2026," Justin Farmer*

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *"JUSTIN FOR CT 2026," Justin Farmer*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

2. *"Martin 31," Henri Martin*

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *"Martin 31," Henri Martin*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

3. *"Ziemba For State Rep," Andrew Ziemba*

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *"Ziemba For State Rep," Andrew Ziemba*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

4. *"BillforCT," William Heughins*

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *"BillforCT," William Heughins*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

5. *"Cristin McCarthy Vahey 2026," Cristin McCarthy Vahey*

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *"Cristin McCarthy Vahey 2026," Cristin McCarthy Vahey*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

6. *"Ham for State Rep 2026," Bob Ham*

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *"Ham for State Rep 2026," Bob Ham*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

7. *"Lombard for the 8TH," Francis Lombard*

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *"Lombard for the 8TH," Francis Lombard*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

8. *"Meredith Tobitsch for the 125th," Meredith Tobitsch*

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *"Meredith Tobitsch for the 125th," Meredith Tobitsch*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

9. *"NKD26," Nicole Klarides Ditria*

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *"NKD26," Nicole Klarides Ditria*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

10. *"Committee to Re-Elect Senator John Kissel," John Kissel*

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to continue without prejudice the grant application for *"Committee to Re-Elect Senator John Kissel," John Kissel*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

11. *"Kevin Brown for Vernon," Kevin Brown*

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to continue without prejudice the grant application for *"Kevin Brown for Vernon," Kevin Brown*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

12. *"Leland for CT," Leland Moore*

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *"Leland for CT," Leland Moore*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

13. *"Tocci for CT," Vincent Tocci*

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to continue without prejudice the grant application for *"Tocci for CT," Vincent Tocci*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

14. *"Anne Santoro for the 37th," Anne Santoro*

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *"Anne Santoro for the 37th," Anne Santoro*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

15. *"Bermudez for NH," Wildaliz Bermudez*

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to continue without prejudice the grant application for *"Bermudez for NH," Wildaliz Bermudez*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

16. *"Citizens for Rick 59th," Richard Leborious*

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *"Citizens for Rick 59th," Richard Leborious*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

17. *"Faith 2026 for the 75th," Faithalee Goclowski*

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to continue without prejudice the grant application for *"Faith 2026 for the 75th," Faithalee Goclowski*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

18. *"Rizzo2026," Deborah Rizzo*

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *"Rizzo2026," Deborah Rizzo*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

19. *"Josh for CT," Joshua Elliott*

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to continue without prejudice the grant application for *"Josh for CT," Joshua Elliott*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

B. Continuation of Prior Applications Awaiting Additional Information to Qualify for a Grant

1. *"Canino for Torrington 2026," Joseph Canino*

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *"Canino for Torrington 2026," Joseph Canino*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

2. *"Kathy Kennedy for the 118th," Kathy Kennedy*

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *"Kathy Kennedy for the 118th," Kathy Kennedy*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

VI. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Referral by the Audit and Disclosure Unit of the SEEC,
Hartford
File No. 2025-060A

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:

Patrick Leigh

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2025-060A. 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 in File No. 2025-060A. So voted by a vote of 4-0-1 with Commissioner Ajello abstaining.

2. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State, Hartford
File Nos. 2025-135A & 2025-135B

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Proposed Notice of Dismissal

Respondents:

Mary Bowers and

Mary St. Pierre

Attorney:

Mario Borelli

Legal Investigator:

Ronald Perry

Attorney Mario Borelli summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2025-135A. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2025-135A. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

Attorney Mario Borelli summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2025-135B. 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 in File No. 2025-135B. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

***VII. 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 10:10 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 5-0-0.

Commissioners Penny, Ajello, 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 & Audit Salman Munir, Enforcement Director William Smith, Staff Attorneys Mario Borelli, Johny Ross, III, Zak Jazlowiecki, Maryam Bitar, Patricia Mwilwa, Legal Investigators Ronald Perry, Scott Branfuhr, Information Technology Manager Irene Jeremic, Information Technology Analyst Nathan Diaz-Rolon and Commission Clerks Stephen Palmer and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

VIII. Consideration of Matters Discussed in the above Executive Session

At 11:05 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. In the Matter of a Self-Initiated Investigation by the SEEC
File Nos. 2025-144A, 2025-144B and 2025-144C
Recommendations of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

The matter is continued.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Martin T. Weiss, Woodstock
File No. 2026-025
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

William B. Smith

Legal Investigator:

Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2026-025. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2026-025. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Robert Melillo, Danbury
File No. 2026-008
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Johnny Ross, III

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Johnny Ross, III summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2026-008. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2026-008. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

4. In the Matter of Complaint by Michael Companik, Torrington,
In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State, Hartford
File Nos. 2025-061A and 2025-107A
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Johnny Ross, III

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

Attorney Johnny Ross, III summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File Nos. 2025-061A and 2025-107A. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File Nos. 2025-061A and 2025-107A. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0 with Commissioner Ajello recusing himself from consideration of this matter.

5. In the Matter of a Referral by the Secretary of the State, Hartford
File No. 2024-073
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Zak Jazlowiecki

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Zak Jazlowiecki summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2024-073. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Notice of Dismissal and the following motion: that the Commission authorize its staff to notify by mail the 56 municipal registrars offices of the potential of deceased electors on their voter registries and instruct the registrars of their duty to remove those individuals in File No. 2024-073. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by David Hannon, Ansonia
File No. 2025-064
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Zak Jazlowiecki

Legal Investigator:

Ronald Perry

Attorney Zak Jazlowiecki summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2025-064. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2025-064. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

7. In the Matter of a Referral by the Registrar of Voters, Greenwich
File No. 2025-074
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Zak Jazlowiecki

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Zak Jazlowiecki summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2025-074. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2025-074. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by Alvin Schwapp, Bloomfield
File No. 2025-089
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Zak Jazlowiecki

Legal Investigator:

Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

Attorney Zak Jazlowiecki summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2025-089. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2025-089. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

9. In the Matter of a Complaint by Nikolas Decker and Stephanie Howard, Bethany
File No. 2025-047

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Zak Jazlowiecki

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

10. In the Matter of a Complaint by Katherine Camara, Oakville
File No. 2025-096

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Zak Jazlowiecki

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Zak Jazlowiecki summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2025-096. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2025-096. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

11. In the Matter of a Complaint by Edward Sabatino, East Haven
File No. 2025-098

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Mario Borelli

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Mario Borelli summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2025-098. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Proposed Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2025-098. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

12. In the Matter of a Self-Initiated Investigation by the SEEC

File No. 2026-041

Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Legal Investigator:

Mario Borelli

Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

The matter is continued.

IX. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Picuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist at 11:22 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by,



Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

Clerk of the State Elections Enforcement Commission

July 15, 2026

Date approved

(By the State Elections Enforcement Commission)