



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES

STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

July 9, 2026
3:30 P.M.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Penny was present via Teams and called the meeting to order at 3:31 P.M. Commissioners Michael Ajello, Sonia Worell Asare, and Greg Picuch were present via Teams. Agency staff were also present and present via Teams.

II. Executive Session per General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (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 Asare at 3:32 P.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 Picuch 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 Disclosure & Audit Salman Munir Staff Attorneys Mario Borelli, Aaron Charney, Patricia Mwilwa, Elections Officer Kaitlin Flynn, Information Technology Manager Irene Jeremic, Information Technology Analyst Nathan Diaz-Rolon, and Commission Clerks Stephen Palmer and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

III. Consideration of Matters Discussed in the above Executive Session

At 3:45 P.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: Discussion of Candidate Committee Validation Memoranda

No action was taken.

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

A. New Applications

1. "Jennifer Leeper 2026," Jennifer Leeper

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to approve the grant application for "*Jennifer Leeper 2026, Jennifer Leeper*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. "Mitch for Newtown 2026," Mitch Bolinsky

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to approve the grant application for "*Mitch for Newtown 2026, Mitch Bolinsky*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

3. "Tiffani for West Hartford," Tiffani McGinnis

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to approve the grant application for "*Tiffani for West Hartford, Tiffani McGinnis*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

4. "DeFronzo 2026," David DeFronzo

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to approve the grant application for "*DeFronzo 2026, David DeFronzo*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

5. "Khan for State Senate," Maryam Khan

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to approve the grant application for "*Khan for State Senate, Maryam Khan*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

6. "Cara 2026," Cara Pavalock-D'Amato

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to approve the grant application for "*Cara 2026, Cara Pavalock-D'Amato*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

7. "Fritz for the 90th," David Fritz

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to approve the grant application for "*Fritz for the 90th, David Fritz*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

8. *"Steve Weir For CT 26," Stephen Weir*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to approve the grant application for *"Steve Weir For CT 26," Stephen Weir*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

9. *"Julie2026," Julie Kushner*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to approve the grant application for *"Julie2026," Julie Kushner*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

10. *"Perillo for Senate 2026," Jason Perillo*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to approve the grant application for *"Perillo for Senate 2026," Jason Perillo*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

11. *"Mandato for the 34th," Brandi Mandato*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to continue without prejudice the grant application for *"Mandato for the 34th," Brandi Mandato*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

12. *"Really Nice People," Jeffrey Weiss*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to approve the grant application for *"Really Nice People," Jeffrey Weiss*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

13. *"SamanthaForStateRep44," Smanatha Derenthal*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to continue without prejudice the grant application for *"SamanthaForStateRep44," Smanatha Derenthal*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

14. *"Werstler26," Ethan Werstler*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to continue without prejudice the grant application for *"Werstler26," Ethan Werstler*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

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

1. "Kevin Brown for Vernon," Kevin Brown

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to approve the grant application for *"Kevin Brown for Vernon," Kevin Brown*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

2. "Harding 26," Stephen Harding

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to approve the grant application for *"Harding 26," Stephen Harding*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

3. "Josh for CT," Joshua Elliott

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to approve the grant application for *"Josh for CT," Joshua Elliott*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

4. "Bermudez for NH," Wildaliz Bermudez

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to approve the grant application for *"Bermudez for NH," Wildaliz Bermudez*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to approve the following motion: Pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b(a), the Commission moves to initiate an investigation into possible violations of Chapter 155 and the requirements of Chapter 157 of the General Statutes concerning the conflicting contributor certification information submitted on behalf of "Bermudez for NH" in its application for a grant under the Citizens' Election Program. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

5. *"Tocci for CT," Vincent A. Tocci*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare to approve the grant application for *"Tocci for CT," Vincent A. Tocci*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

V. *Adjournment*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Asare at 4:05 P.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted by,



Sheri-Lyn Lagueux
Clerk of the State Elections Enforcement Commission

July 15, 2026

Date approved

(By the State Elections Enforcement Commission)