



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
August 12, 2026
3:30 PM

I. Call to Order

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

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to amend the Agenda and add as III.B.01 "*Erick Russell for State Treasurer 26,*" *Erick A. Russell*; III.B.02. "*Friends of Dominique Johnson 26,*" *Dominique E. Johnson* and IV.02 - Recommendation of Counsel: Necessary to Investigate Determination pursuant to General Statutes §9-7a. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

II. 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.

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

A. New Applications

1. "*Cabrera for SD 17,*" *Jorge L. Cabrera*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for "*Cabrera for SD 17,*" *Jorge L. Cabrera*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

2. *"Matt Blumenthal for CT," Matthew S. Blumenthal*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for *"Matt Blumenthal for CT," Matthew S. Blumenthal*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

3. *"ReState Sweet," Laurie Sweet*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for *"ReState Sweet," Laurie Sweet*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

4. *"Rep Anne Hughes CT," Anne M. Hughes*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for *"Rep Anne Hughes CT," Anne M. Hughes*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

5. *"Goldberg for CT149," Amiel H. Goldberg*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for *"Goldberg for CT149," Amiel H. Goldberg*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

6. *"Rojas 2026," Jason Rojas*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for *"Rojas 2026," Jason Rojas*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

7. *"EdVac for 109," Ed Vachovetz*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for *"EdVac for 109," Ed Vachovetz*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

8. *"James Mol Committee," James Mol*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for *"James Mol Committee," James Mol*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

9. *"Lucy 2026," Lucia "Lucy" S. Dathan*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for *"Lucy 2026," Lucia "Lucy" S. Dathan*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

10. *"Steve for State Rep 2026," Steven B. Winter*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for *"Steve for State Rep 2026," Steven B. Winter*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

11. *"ANKERMAN FOR STATE REP," Chantelle D. Ankerman*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for *"ANKERMAN FOR STATE REP," Chantelle D. Ankerman*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

12. *"Connelly101," Mary Ann Connelly*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for *"Connelly101," Mary Ann Connelly*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

13. *"Dr. Wagner for Connecticut," Angelina M. Wagner*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for *"Dr. Wagner for Connecticut," Angelina M. Wagner*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

14. *"Welandar for CT," Mary Welandar*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to continue without prejudice the grant application for *"Welandar for CT," Mary Welandar*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

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

1. *"Erick Russell for State Treasurer 26," Erick A. Russell*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for *"Erick Russell for State Treasurer 26," Erick A. Russell*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

2. *"Friends of Dominique Johnson 26," Dominique E. Johnson*

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the grant application for *"Friends of Dominique Johnson 26," Dominique E. Johnson*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

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)

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Ajello at 3:49 PM. 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 Disclosure & Audit Salman Munir, Enforcement Director William B. Smith, Staff Attorneys Mario Borelli, Zak Jazlowiecki, Maryam Bitar, Aaron Charney, Patricia Mwilwa, Legal Investigators Ronald Perry, Information Technology Manager Irene Jeremic, Information Technology Analyst Nathan Diaz-Rolon, and Commission Clerks Stephen Palmer and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

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

At 4:33 PM., 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 Complaint by Benjamin Shaiken, Mansfield Center
File Nos. 2025-062, 2026-034, 2026-039 & 2026-040
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Johnny Ross, III

Legal Investigator:

Stephanie Fish

Commissioner Ajello recused himself from consideration of this matter.

The matter is continued.

2. Recommendation of Counsel: Necessary to Investigate Determination pursuant to General Statutes §9-7a

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the Recommendation of Counsel dated August 11, 2026 and requested that two (2) matters be moved to be investigated.

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to complaints, File No. 2026-085 and 2026-086. So approved by the Commission. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the following motion: The Commission, pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (8), refers evidence bearing upon violation potential criminal violations of the General Statutes relating to an election, primary, or referendum arising out of the Complaint of Alesia Dennis, which has been docketed as File No. 2026-086, to the Office of Chief State's Attorney. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

VI. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Ajello at 4:38 PM. 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

August 19, 2026

Date approved

(By the State Elections Enforcement Commission)