MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
October 7, 2026
9:30 AM

I. Call to Order

Chairman Ajello was present via Teams and called the meeting to order at 9:32AM Commissioners Sonia Worrell Asare, Shannon Bergquist, Cornelius McCarthy and Greg Piecuch 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 Amenda the agenda by adding to Continuation of Prior Applications Awaiting Additional Information to Qualify for a Grant as V.A.03. *Dr. Kimball for District 87," Kathleen Kimball.* So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

II. Approval of the Minutes

1. *Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 16, 2026*

   It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of *September 16, 2026*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-1 with Commissioner Asare abstaining.

2. *Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 23, 2026*

   It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of *September 23, 2026* as amended. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

3. *Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 30, 2026*

   It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of *September 30, 2026*. So voted by a vote of 4-0-1 with Commissioner Asare abstaining.

III. Administrative Reports

1. *Report of Executive Director and General Counsel Ryan Burns*

Executive Director and General Counsel Ryan Burns reported that absentee voting has begun and early voting begins on October 19th with election day less than 4 weeks away on November 3, 2026.

Director Burns advised that while staff are wrapping up the CEP cycle as grant agendas are shrinking, election administration responsibilities have been increasing, so staff continue to be busy right up through election day and including a few weeks after.

Director Burns advised that staff has also involved in a few educational election forums including one recently hosted by the League of Women Voters and the Judicial Branch.

Director Burns reported that the Election Security Working Group has also been highly active, that's our collaboration with our sister agencies to ensure that we have secure and efficient voting for absentee, early and election day voting.

Director Burns advised that the possible special meeting for Friday is not required

Director Burns provided an update on an enforcement case. There was an arrest made concerning the Commission's referral of SEEC file no. 2026-086. Respondent Dennis Brandley turned himself into the state police yesterday.

Director Burns reported that there are two meetings scheduled for next week. Those are grant meetings. Whether both are required will depend on whether the commission receive further applications this week, since this is the last week to apply for a CEP grant.

Director Burns advised that there is a meeting scheduled for October 21, 2026, which will be an in person meeting. There will be Enforcement matters on the agenda but largely this will be a meeting to honor former chairman Penny. The agency will be holding our fall event with staff at Parkville Market.

Director Burns provided updated statistics: the Enforcement docket is currently 176 docketed cases, 37 are on hold for referrals, 50 are non-filers and 95 are active complaints, referrals and SEEC initiated matters. On the grant side, the Commission has awarded 297 grants and five are pending with three for consideration today.

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)

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

Executive Session was not convened.

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

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

1. "Friends of Quinn," Michael D. Quinn

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *"Friends of Quinn,"* Michael D. Quinn. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

2. "Raghib 2026," Raghib Allie-Brennan

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

3. "Dr. Kimball for District 87," Kathleen Kimball

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the grant application for *"Dr. Kimball for District 87," Kathleen Kimball.* So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

VI. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

There were no items in this public session.

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 9:42 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 Ajello, Asare, Bergquist, McCarthy 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, Johnny Ross, III, Zak Jazlowiecki, Maryam Bitar, Patricia Mwilwa, Legal Investigators Stephaie Fish, Ronald Perry, Scott Branfuhr, Information Technology Manager Irene Jeremic, and Commission Clerks Stephen Palmer and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

VIII. Consideration of Matters Discussed in the above Executive Session

At 10:38 AM, 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 October 1, 2026 and requested that (22) twenty-two 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 complaints, File No. 2026-103; 2026-104; 2026-105; 2026-106; 2026-107; 2026-108; 2026-109; 2026-110; 2026-111 and 2026-112. So approved by the Commission. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

   It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to complaints, File No. 2026-114; 2026-115 and 2026-116. So approved by the Commission. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

   It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to complaints, File No. 2026-118; 2026-119; 2026-120; 2026-121; 2026-122; 2026-123; 2026-124; 2026-125 and 2026-126. So approved by the Commission. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

   It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to make a determination that it is not necessary to investigate violations relating to complaints, File No. 2026-113 and 2026-117. So approved by the Commission. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Jamie B. Vaughn, New Britain
   File No. 2026-021
   Recommendation of Counsel
   Attorney: Johnny Ross, III
   Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

   Attorney Johnny Ross, III summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2026-021. 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 Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2026-021. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Angela L. Driver, West Haven
   File No. 2026-002
   Recommendation of Counsel
   Attorney: Johnny Ross, III
   Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

   Attorney Johnny Ross, III summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2026-002. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Reason to Believe in this matter.

   It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the following motion: Pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b and § 9-7b-35 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, in the matter of File No. 2026-002, Commission moves that: (1) it has probable cause and reason to believe that Respondent Laurie M. Reynolds violated Connecticut General Statutes §§ 9-606 (a) and 9-608 (e) based on a review of the record; (2) the Clerk of the Commission or her designee is authorized to issue a notice of a hearing concerning the alleged violations of the law by Respondent Reynolds; and (3) a Hearing Officer be appointed to adjudicate this matter.in File No. 2026-002. So voted by a vote of 4-0-1 with Commissioner Ajello recusing himself from consideration of this matter.

   Commissioner Piecuch has been appointed as Hearing Officer.

4. In the Matter of a Referral by Hon. Stephanie Thomas, Secretary of the State, Hartford
   File No. 2024-168
   Recommendation of Counsel
   Attorney: Zak Jazlowiecki
   Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

   The matter is continued.

5. In the Matter of a Referral by Bethany Assistant Town Clerks Stephanie Howard and Nikolas Decker, Bethany
   File No. 2025-047
   Recommendation of Counsel
   Attorney: Zak Jazlowiecki
   Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

   Attorney Zak Jazlowiecki summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2025-047. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Agreement Containing Consent Order in this matter.

   It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the Agreement Containing Consent Order in File No. 2025-047. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

6. In the Matter of a Referral by Danbury Registrars of Voters Mary Ann Doran and Jean Natale, Danbury
   File No. 2025-116
   Recommendation of Counsel
   Attorney: Zak Jazlowiecki
   Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

   The matter is continued.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Kathleen Callahan, Stratford
   File No. 2026-001
   Recommendation of Counsel
   Attorney: Zak Jazlowiecki
   Legal Investigator: Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

   Attorney Zak Jazlowiecki summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2026-001. He recommended adoption of a referral to the office of the Chief State's Attorney in this matter.

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist to adopt the following: Pursuant to General Statutes § 9-7b (a) (8), the Commission hereby refers to the Chief State's Attorney evidence bearing upon criminal violations of the general statutes pertaining to an election, primary, or referendum, including, but not limited to the provisions of chapters 155 and 157, discovered in the course of the investigation into the matter docketed as 2026-001. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by Mark A. Sanderson, Bloomfield
   File No. 2026-012
   Recommendation of Counsel
   Attorney: Zak Jazlowiecki
   Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

   Attorney Zak Jazlowiecki summarized the above referenced complaint and Recommendation of Counsel in File No. 2026-012. 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 Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2026-012. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

9. In the Matter of a Complaint by Alicia Augustine, Watertown
   File No. 2025-127
   Recommendation of Counsel
   Attorney: Mario Borelli
   Legal Investigator: Ronald Perry

   The matter is continued.

10. In the Matter of a of a Self-Initiated Investigation by SEEC *"Bob for Governor"*
    File No. 2026-032
    Recommendation of Counsel
    Attorney: Mario Borelli
    Legal Investigator: Sheri-Lyn Lagueux

    The matter is continued.

11. In the Matter of a Complaint by Brendan R. Connery, Wallingford
File No. 2026-046
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. 2026-046. 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 Notice of Dismissal in File No. 2026-046. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

IX. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Piecuch and seconded by Commissioner Bergquist at 10:53 AM 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

October 21, 2026
Date approved
(By the State Elections Enforcement Commission)