



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES

**STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
QUARTERLY IN-PERSON MEETING**

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January 14, 2026 9:30 A.M.

55 Farmington Ave., Room 7020, Hartford, CT 06105

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Penny was present via and called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. Commissioners Michael Ajello, Sonia Asare and Greg Picuch were present. Agency staff were also present.

Commissioner Penny advised of the need for a Special Meeting for a pending grant application and proposed establishing January 28, 2026 at 3:30 p.m. for the meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to add this item to the agenda and approve the meeting date. So voted by a vote of 4-0-0.

II. Administrative Reports

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

Executive Director and General Counsel, Ryan Burns reported that he has completed one-on-one meetings with staff and looks forward to working with them in completing the mission of the agency

Director Burns announced the promotion of Attorney Joshua Foley to Senior Counsel. In recognition of not only his experience with the agency, but also the unique role he plays. Burns and staff congratulated Foley.

Director Burns advised that there is a posting for the agency's last vacancy, Accounts Examiner, which posting closes today. One filled, the agency will be fully staffed.

Director Burns updated that regarding external relations, SEEC staff had a meeting this past Monday with Common Cause, with both their national representative and their Connecticut Lobbyist. This is a very important relationship to this agency and they are very committed to the agency for working with us during the upcoming legislative session and going forward.

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Director Burns reported that he has begun the process of reaching out to the commissioners appointing authorities and all but one have scheduled meetings.

Director Burns advised that regarding fiscal, the agency is on budget and will be reporting a small surplus. The agency is looking healthy for fiscal year '26.

Director Burns updated that the agency has issued the first pre-convention grant. This was a herculean effort both by our compliance and audit units. A lot of credit goes to them for getting through this. They have now turned their attention to the new application that is in. Also, the audit unit is working diligently to wrap up our '24 and '22 audits. Staff will be working through those and the goal is to have the audits completed before the grant season opens.

Director Burns reported that the Compliance unit has been very busy. The big focus for staff has been updating our processes to reflect the changes that have been in the 25-26 Public Act. That has changed quite a bit of how we do the work of our agency and has required quite a bit of legal work. Staff has a plan to execute these changes so the agency will have an efficient plan to get the grants out. Staff has been working with our 2026 candidate committees.

Director Burns advised that staff is also doing regulatory and declaratory work, which is included in today's packet.

Director Burns updated that there was really outstanding work done for the January 10th filing as there are only 14 late filers reported. This credit goes to the elections officers and compliance attorneys who do a ton of outreach and also our IT team who help with any technical issues from the committees.

Director Burns announced that the agency handled 2 special elections, with no issues that staff are aware of.

Director Burns reported that for the Enforcement unit, there are 113 active cases, excluding non-filers and ones in collection. Staff is currently reviewing all of the enforcement processes and expects to provide proposals at the April quarterly meeting.

Director Burns advised that on the IT side, the agency has a new IT Director, Irene Jeremic, who has done an outstanding job. Included in your packet is a full report of where she has been directing her energies. Commissioners will be receiving trainings on Teams, which will be the new platform the agency will be shifting to for commission meetings. Agency staff is coordinating with BITS, trying to determine the best relationship for this agency as many of our enterprise systems include what's handled by BITS.

Director Burns reported that regarding the IT Infrastructure, Irene has been doing an audit and has discovered some significant needs for upgrades. Fortunately, we

do have some small surplus in our budget now that will allow us to cover those costs in this fiscal year.

Commissioner Asare raised a question about the use of interns at the agency.

Commissioner Piecuch raised points relative to enforcement process and requested a flowchart for the unit. Director Burns advised that staff will have recommendations for the Quarterly April meeting.

Commissioner Penny raised questions about referrals and the enforcement process.

III. Discussion of 2026 Legislative Priorities

Director Burns reported that his assessment the major priority of this legislative session will be relationship building and demonstrating competence. Burns recommends that the agency not pursue an affirmative legislative proposal.

Commissioner Piecuch raised questions about prior proposals. Burns reviewed the Municipal Filing bill.

IV. Discussion of Agency Governance and Operations

Discussions were not held on this matter.

V. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Asare and seconded by Commissioner Ajello at 10:01 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

January 21, 2026

Date approved

(By the State Elections Enforcement Commission)