



CONNECTICUT STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

April 2021

Volume 2



April Quarterly Filing Due by Monday, April 12, 2021

The filing period for the April quarterly report (April 10 Filing) commenced April 1, 2021 and ends April 12, 2021. All state central committees, town committees, political committees, and open candidate committees* must file this report regardless of financial activity. The filing must cover the period starting with the first day after the period covered by the last filing (January 1, 2021 for most) through March 31, 2021.

***Important Note:** Committees of candidates not selected for post-election review must terminate by April 7 and do not need to file this report. Candidate committees of candidates who never made it onto the ballot but remain open are required to file the April quarterly report.



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2021 Municipal Candidate Online Training

All modules are available for viewing and can be found [here](#). Topics include becoming a candidate, registering your candidacy, and choosing your funding source, treasurer duties, raising and spending funds, reporting, and wrapping up your campaign.

The only piece missing is the helpful Q & A section but we are available, as always, for any questions you may have. Please contact us at 860-256-2940 or seec@ct.gov.

2021 Municipal Candidate Guide Now Available – [Click here!](#)

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Sample Online Interfaces for Municipal Campaigns

As we have been receiving more calls about online contribution sites from municipal campaigns this election cycle than ever before, we have recently posted sample online interfaces, which may be viewed by clicking [here](#). Municipal campaigns are not required to have their online contribution sites reviewed by Commission staff but we would be happy to take a look and answer any questions you may have.

CEP Survey Reminder

A quick reminder for all 2020 participating candidates, treasurers, and deputy treasurers to please fill out our survey!

On February 16, 2021, you were sent an email with a link to a survey through Survey Monkey. If you haven't yet filled it out we would truly appreciate it if you could do so.

This survey presents us with the single best way to gather feedback from users of the CEP and to make improvements to address your concerns in order to make the Program even more successful. Thank you!



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Final Steps for 2020 Candidate Committees

Committees that were formed for the 2020 general election should be looking to finalize their financial transactions and terminate if they haven't already done so.

General Assembly candidate committees that were not selected for a post-election review were required to distribute any surplus by March 31, 2021 and must file a termination statement within seven days of surplus distribution, no later than April 7, 2021.

For General Assembly candidate committees that were selected for post-election review, your next filing is the April quarterly filing, due Monday, April 12, 2021 (see first page for more information) as your termination deadline is not until July 7, 2021. Please keep in mind that you may terminate in lieu of your April quarterly filing! While the election is over, treasurers are still obligated to complete financial disclosure filings on the regular filing calendar until they terminate the committee (by filing a termination report).

We have a [Termination Fact Sheet](#) available to assist you. Remember, if you were selected for a post-election review, please get your documents to our office as soon as possible!





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Chairman Castagno Steps Down After a Decade

In March, Anthony J. Castagno, the long-serving Chair of the Commission, resigned after faithfully serving the Commission for over ten years.

Mr. Castagno was appointed to the Commission in August 2010 by then Speaker of the House, Christopher G. Donovan. Mr. Castagno was elected Chair of the Commission in December 2012 and served in that capacity until his recent resignation. He was also Chair of the Connecticut Government Accountability Commission from its inception in 2012 until resigning in 2015.

Mr. Castagno was an adjunct faculty member at the University of Connecticut, Avery Point from 1997 until 2019, and is president of The Rowe Group, which specializes in strategic business development and public relations. He was a partner in an Ireland-based high tech company from 2008 through 2012. His prior experience includes more than sixteen years with Eversource Energy (formerly Northeast Utilities), the last eleven as manager of communications for the company's nuclear operations, and five years as Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and Director of an international video streaming company. He has been published in more than fifty reference books and other publications.

Mr. Castagno has Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Trinity College in Hartford. He was a director of Middlesex County Literacy Volunteers and Middlesex County Special Olympics, was active with the Portland Democratic Town Committee and served on the Portland Economic Development Commission and the Portland Charter Revision Commission. In 1990, he ran for State Senate in the 33rd district.

The Commission and staff wish to thank Mr. Castagno for his many years of dedicated service to the Commission. He cared not only about the Commission's important work but the staff who did the work. As Chair of the bi-partisan, citizen Commission, Mr. Castagno was a steady hand at the helm over an eventful decade for campaign finance law and elections, in the state and nationally. He will be missed.

Other Commission News

With the departure of Mr. Castagno, the Commission has selected Stephen Penny to serve as its next Chair. Commissioner Michael J. Ajello has also taken on a new role within the Commission, becoming Vice Chair. The position was previously held by Commissioner Salvatore Bramante.

The Commission and staff also wish to welcome Shannon Bergquist to the Commission. Commissioner Bergquist was appointed to replace Mr. Castagno by Speaker of the House Matt Ritter with the legislature's approval.



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Staff Spotlight

The Commission welcomed two new staff members this past quarter. Ronald Perry joins the agency as a Legal Investigator and Paul Brady as an Elections Officer. Welcome, Ron and Paul!