



CONNECTICUT STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

July 2017

Volume 2



Mandatory Electronic Filing Begins

This Filing Period

Pursuant to General Statutes § 9-675, as amended by Public Act 2016-203, electronic filing will be mandatory for most committees registered with the Commission, effective July 1, 2017. This means that the July quarterly filing due July 10, 2017, as well as all filings thereafter, must be submitted through eCRIS for the majority of committees.

 **eCRIS** July 2017 Filing Reminder!



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Mandatory Electronic Filing Begins

The following committees will be required to file by eCRIS:

(1) candidate committees and exploratory committees of candidates for statewide office, General Assembly, or judge of probate that raise or spend \$1,000 or more; (2) all state central committees, legislative caucus committees and legislative leadership committees; (3) town committees and political committees registered with SEEC that raise or spend \$1,000 or more during the current calendar year or in the preceding regular election cycle; and (4) any other committees or other persons (including individuals and businesses) who make or obligate to make an independent expenditure in excess of \$1,000 on behalf of a statewide office, General Assembly, or judge of probate candidate.

If you would like one-on-one eCRIS training, whether in person or telephonically, please promptly contact Elections Officer Sarah Clark at 860-256-2985 or seec.training@ct.gov. Since the beginning of this year, Sarah has personally trained more than 80 committees!

If a committee is required to file electronically but the treasurer submits a written request for a waiver and is able to demonstrate good cause for not being able to do so, General Statutes § 9-675 permits the Commission to waive the electronic filing requirement. If you are required to file electronically but feel you have good cause for not doing so, please contact Commission staff at 860-256-2940 immediately.

At its June 21, 2017 meeting, the Commission resolved that all paper filings submitted by treasurers and other persons who are required to electronically file on and after July 1, 2017 and who have not submitted a written request for a waiver will be deemed insufficient and will result in penalties for non-filing.



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How To Do an eCRIS Search

All filings submitted to the Commission by committees and other persons are available for public viewing on our website. On our homepage, <http://www.ct.gov/seec>, click on eCRIS Search which will bring you to the eCRIS Search homepage, https://seec.ct.gov/eCrisHome/eCRIS_Search/eCrisSearchHome, and then you can click on Document/Filing Search, which will bring you to this page, <https://seec.ct.gov/eCrisReporting/SearchingDoc.aspx>. Once here, you can search filings in a variety of ways as long as you complete at least one of the required fields marked with an asterisk (*).

For example, if you live in a town participating in our Municipal Campaign Finance Filing Pilot Program and want to see the filings of all candidates who have registered so far, you can select your town under "Municipality" and select "2017" as the "Election Year" and then you will be able to view all of these filings.

As another example, if you want to see all exploratory committees that have registered for the 2018 election cycle, you can select "Exploratory" under "Committee Type" and "2018" as the "Election Year" to see all such committees.

Interested in seeing both exploratory committees and candidate committees registered for 2018? Select "All" under "Committee Type" and "2018" under "Election Year." If you only want to see their registration statements, you can further limit your results by selecting "Registration Forms" under "Form Type."

Commission staff will be conducting trainings for municipal candidates and campaigns throughout this summer as well as one day for town committees. To reserve your seat, email seec.training@ct.gov and indicate your name, your committee and the session you will attend. **

Municipal Campaign Trainings:

Monday, July 17, 2017 6:00pm-8:00pm

State Elections Enforcement Commission

5th Floor Conference Room, 20 Trinity Street, Hartford

Tuesday, August 15, 2017 6:00pm-8:00pm

Westport Public Library, 20 Jesup Road, Westport

Wednesday, August 16, 2017 6:00pm-8:00pm

City Hall Auditorium 2nd Floor, 140 Main Street, Torrington

Monday, August 21, 2017 6:00pm-8:00pm

State Elections Enforcement Commission

5th Floor Conference Room, 20 Trinity Street, Hartford

Tuesday, August 22, 2017 6:00pm-8:00pm

Town Hall Room 1, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester

Town Committee Trainings:

Saturday, August 12, 2017

Public Library – Lower Level, Maple Avenue, Durham

Republican Town Committees 9:00am-11:00am

Democratic Town Committees 12:30pm-2:30pm

** Please note all trainings are subject to change due to the current budget crisis and may have to be cancelled or rescheduled to occur during business hours at our offices





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2016 Candidate Committees Selected for Post-Election Review

Right after the November election, the Commission held a lottery using a computer program to randomly select districts for a post-election review. Committees selected were notified and asked to submit, with their January quarterly report, all documents related to the committee's transactions since its inception through December 31, 2016. When a committee terminated, the remainder of its documentation was due.

For committees that remain open, please submit all remaining documentation when you terminate, which can be no later than July 7, 2017.

The documents provided through December have been reviewed for completeness and committees will be given feedback regarding any missing documents. Please note, however, that the actual review cannot begin until the committee has fully terminated and provided the remainder of the documents, including bank statements, through termination.

If you have provided all of your documentation but haven't been recently contacted by audit staff or received a completed post-election review, don't worry. We have many committees to review and are working diligently to review them all in a timely fashion.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Candidate Services Unit.



CONTACT US

SEEC Main Line:

860-256-2940 Email: seec@ct.gov

SEEC Candidate Services Unit:

860-256-2985 Email: public.finance@ct.gov

SEEC Compliance Unit:

860-256-2925 Email: seec.compliance@ct.gov

eCRIS Help Desk:

860-256-2930 Email: seec.ecris.info@ct.gov

Mass Gathering Exception for Town Committees

As we approach the busy season for many town committees, we wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of the parameters of the mass gathering exception to the definition of contribution.

A town committee may raise funds through the sale of food or beverage at a town fair, county fair, local festival, or similar mass gathering held within the state and such sales are not considered contributions to the extent the cumulative purchases by an individual do not exceed \$50. Such an event is reported in Section L1, "Event Information" of the SEEC Form 20, including subpart 3 where you disclose the amount raised. If an individual's purchase exceeds \$50, the entire amount is considered a contribution and must be itemized in Section B.

This exception is limited to town committee fundraisers taking place at a mass gathering, such as when the town committee rents a booth to sell food or beverages at a town or county fair, local festival, or the like. If, for example, the town committee is charging \$50 a plate at an event paid for only by the town committee or at a joint event it is paying for with other committees, the \$50 does not qualify for the exemption and are considered contributions that should be recorded and reported accordingly.