

State Elections Enforcement Commission

Press Release



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STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES NEW COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

HARTFORD, CT—January 22, 2013. The State Elections Enforcement Commission is pleased to announce that Anthony J. Castagno has been designated by his fellow commissioners to be the Commission's new Chairman. At the December 19, 2012 regular Commission meeting, it was moved by Commission Vice-Chair Joan Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Patricia Stankevicius to designate Mr. Castagno as Chairman of the Commission. Mr. Castagno succeeds Stephen F. Cashman, who Resigned as Chairman in November.

Anthony J. Castagno of North Stonington was appointed to the Commission in August 2010 by Speaker of the House Christopher G. Donovan, and confirmed by the legislature in 2011. Mr. Castagno is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Connecticut, Avery Point, and president of The Rowe Group, which specializes in strategic business development and public relations. His prior experience includes more than 16 years with Northeast Utilities, the last 11 as manager of communications for the company's nuclear operations; he has been published in more than 50 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 (CT) 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.

Commissioner Stephen F. Cashman of Windsor was appointed to the Commission in July 2000 by House Minority Leader Robert M. Ward and was thereafter appointed for a second five year term. He was elected to be the Commission's Chairman on August 18, 2004. He is the owner of the law firm of Stephen F. Cashman with offices in Hartford, Newington and Windsor. He plans to focus on his legal practice.

The Elections Commission is responsible for ensuring independent, non-partisan enforcement of all election law in Connecticut as well as providing campaign finance advice and serving as the repository for all state-wide campaign finance reports and committee registrations. It was created in the wake of years of scandal in Connecticut politics. Since 2005, the Commission also has been home to the Citizens' Election Program, a groundbreaking effort to publically finance Connecticut campaigns and restore trust in the electoral process. The Commission recently merged into the Office of Governmental Accountability, though it remains a substantially independent watchdog agency.

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