

State Elections Enforcement Commission

Press Release



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STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES NEW COMMISSIONER

HARTFORD, CT—August 14, 2013. The State Elections Enforcement Commission is pleased to announce that Attorney Stephen T. Penny has been appointed to serve as a Commissioner on the State Elections Enforcement Commission (“SEEC”). Senate President Pro Tempore Donald Williams made the appointment by letter on August 7, 2013. Mr. Penny’s term will run through June 30, 2016. Mr. Penny succeeds Joan Jenkins, who passed away earlier this summer leaving a vacancy on the Commission.

Stephen T. Penny graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University with a B.A. degree in 1970, and from the University of Connecticut School of Law with a J.D. degree in 1973. Since that time, he has been engaged in the general practice of law in the Town of Manchester, including real estate, litigation, labor relations, municipal and zoning law. He currently is a law partner at Penny, Botticello & O’Brien, P.C., also in Manchester.

Mr. Penny is a former mayor of Manchester, having served on its Board of Directors for ten years. He currently sits on the Cheney Hall Foundation Board and was President of the Manchester Rotary Club. He is also a member of Friendship Lodge of Masons, Sphinx Temple Shriners, and is the announcer at the Manchester Road Race, one of the oldest and most respected such races in the country.

“We are extremely happy to have Attorney Penny as a part of our Commission,” said Michael J. Brandi, Executive Director and General Counsel of SEEC. “He brings great experience and enthusiasm, and we certainly welcome that.”

Connecticut General Statutes § 9-7a provides that the Commission shall have five members, all appointed by different public officials. Mr. Penny’s appointment by Senator Williams brings the Commission membership up to four members. Commissioner Richard C. Bozzuto resigned last year and has yet to be replaced. Commissioner Joan Jenkins, whom Mr. Penny replaces, was appointed by Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin Sullivan in 2003 and re-appointed by Senator Williams in 2007.

The 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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