



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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## November 12, 2024 Post-Election Review Lottery- Introductory Transcript:

Good afternoon, today is Tuesday, November 12, 2024, and the time is 2:03 P.M. We are here with the State Elections Enforcement Commission to conduct lotteries for the selection of General Assembly districts that will be subject to a post-election review for the 2024 election cycle.

I am **Elections Officer Ashley Socquet**, and with me are the Director of Campaign Audit and Disclosure Salman Munir and Associate Accounts Examiner Krysta Palozie.

Also present with us here from the Compliance Unit: Attorneys Aaron Charney, Patricia Mwilwa, and Maryam Bitar, and Elections Officer Evelyn Dillon. From the IT department Information Technology Analyst Jonathan Ortiz.

The Clerk of the Commission Sheri-Lyn Lagueux is joining us virtually via Teams.

Serving as our independent observers today, we have Lindsey Leung, Staff Attorney at the Office of Workforce Strategy, and Marianne Sadowski, Deputy General Counsel at the Office of State Ethics.

The lottery will be conducted by legislative districts. This means that a district will be selected at random, and all candidates known in that district at the time of this lottery will be subject to the post-election review if they were required by law to form a candidate committee AND:

- (1) they were on the primary or general election ballot at the time of the election in that district; and/or
- (2) they received a grant from the Citizens' Election Program (the CEP).

Candidates who withdrew before the election and did not receive a grant, as well as those who are **not known** at the time of this lottery to have been required by law to have candidate committees, are not included in the lottery.

This lottery is performed in a weighted manner. Prior to the 2018 election cycle, each legislative district had the same odds of being selected; however, in Public Act 2017-02 (June Special Session), the legislature modified the law to provide for a weighted lottery. This means that a district's likelihood of being chosen increases if it was not selected in the last three regular election cycles. Likewise, a district's chances will decrease according to how many times it has already been subject to post-election review during the past three election cycles.

Each district is allotted four rows. The first three rows correspond with election cycles for 2018, 2020, and 2022, respectively. The last row corresponds with the election cycle for 2024. For the 2018, 2020, and 2022 election cycles, when a district was chosen for review in one of those cycles, a “yes” is entered in the corresponding row for that election cycle. As illustrated by the screen, for the Senate, numbers between 501 and 593 have been assigned to each row in which a “yes” is not present.

As this screen illustrates, for the House of Representatives, numbers between 101 and 486 have been assigned to each row in which a “yes” is not present. In both the Senate and the House, the row allotted for 2024 always receives a number and therefore, every district has at least one chance to be drawn in the 2024 lottery.

Districts that have not been reviewed in the last three cycles have four chances to be chosen. Districts that have been reviewed once in the last three cycles have three chances to be chosen. Districts that have been reviewed twice in the last three cycles have two chances to be chosen. And districts that have been reviewed all three times in the last three cycles have only one chance to be chosen, which corresponds with the number in the 2024 row.

Again, General Assembly candidates who were not on a primary or general election ballot and who did not receive a grant, as well as those who are not known at the time of this lottery to have been required by law to have candidate committees, will not be subject to a post-election review. 2024 candidates for Judge of Probate and registrar of voters are also not subject to review at this time.

**For the 2024 random lottery** of the General Assembly regular election races, the Senate will be drawn first, then the House. We will use spreadsheets that have been prepared separately for the Senate and House. The 2024 Unique Identifiers spreadsheets, one for the Senate and one for the House, show the weighting analysis. The Lottery Calculator spreadsheets – one for the Senate and one for House -- contain the districts and the number of candidate committees that were on the ballot for the primary and general elections.

The numbers will be selected using a random number generator, available publicly and without cost, located at [www.stattrek.com](http://www.stattrek.com).

The first lottery drawing is for the Senate races of the 2024 Primary and General Elections through Stat Trek, the numbers 501 through 593 will be sorted at random without repeats. This represents the open row's assigned numbers for all 36 Senate districts. The randomly selected numbers will be entered into the 2024 Unique Identifiers spreadsheet for the Senate. Where a number is chosen, it will be highlighted in yellow, and that district will have been selected for review. The district will be entered into the Lottery Calculator Senate spreadsheet, which will tabulate the districts, accordingly, noting and subtracting the number of candidate committees in that district from the remaining total number of committees that must be selected to reach but not exceed 50%.

When the randomly chosen number corresponds with a row for an already chosen district, that number will be changed to red in the Unique Identifiers spreadsheet and we will move on to the next number.

There are 72 candidate committees for Senate falling within the random lottery parameters. No more than 36 will be selected. The first districts randomly identified, up to the limit of 36 candidate committees, will be subject to a post-election review.

For the second draw in the lottery the numbers 101 through 486 will be sorted at random through Stat Trek. This represents the open row's assigned numbers for all 151 House districts. This sequence will then be entered into a spreadsheet and verified.

**For the 7<sup>th</sup> House district**, there are no candidates known at the time of this lottery to have been required to form a candidate committee by law. In the event that this district is selected, it will be noted in red as selected on the Unique Identifiers spreadsheet, but the overall number of committees selected will not be affected so the 7<sup>th</sup> district will not be entered on the Lottery Calculator spreadsheet. In the 2026 lottery, this district would then be noted as a "yes" for being selected for post-election review in 2024.

Again, the number of candidates in each district will be totaled until no more than 50% of the candidates have been included. There are 258 candidate committees for the House falling within the random lottery parameters. No more than 129 will be selected. The first districts randomly identified, up to the limit of 129 candidate committees, will be subject to a post-election review.

After each random number generation, we will print out the results, label and ask our independent observers to initial the paper print outs. We will then read the sequence, starting with the first line and proceeding left to right. We will enter this data into the spreadsheets described earlier until the maximum number of candidate committees selected is reached. A list of the selected districts will be printed out and also signed by our independent observers.

The signed lists will be scanned and saved following this meeting into SEEC electronic file repository and the hard copies will be stored by the Clerk of the Commission. The spreadsheets will be preserved in the SEEC electronic filing repositories.

We will describe each step as we perform it. Let's begin ....