

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION  
Campaign Disclosure & Audit Unit  
55 Farmington Ave, 8th Floor, Hartford, CT 06105-3730

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April 1, 2026

Dustin Bingham  
*Cooley for Connecticut 2024*  
165 Lake Harwinton Rd  
Harwinton, CT 06791

Re: Final Summary of Post Elections Review (PER)

Dear Treasurer Dustin:

Congratulations! The post-election review of your 2024 committee is now concluded. Please find enclosed a copy of the Final Summary of Post Elections Review (PER), which has been adopted by the Commission.

The Statutory mandated post-election review ensures that public & donated funds were properly handled. The PER also enables the agency to better prepare both staff and committees for future election cycles; it helps us to develop meaningful and effective training materials; and it provides us with ideas and proposals to more effectively administer the Citizens' Election Program. Thank you for your help in all of these matters.

We appreciate your time and assistance in providing us the needed information to conduct this comprehensive review. Having qualified, diligent treasurers and candidates helps make Connecticut's campaign finance system one of the best in the nation.

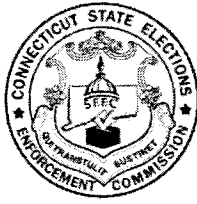
If you have any questions or concerns about the report or the process, feel free to contact your elections officer at (860) 256 2985 or via e-mail at [public.finance@ct.gov](mailto:public.finance@ct.gov).

Sincerely,

Salman Munir  
Director of Campaign Disclosure & Audit Unit

Enclosure

cc: Francis R Cooley, 409 East St Apt 7, Plainville, CT 06062



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**Final Summary of Post-Election Review**  
**“Cooley for Connecticut 2024”**  
**January 22, 2024 – January 2, 2025**

Congratulations! The post-election review of your 2024 committee is complete. This Final Summary addresses our findings regarding your candidate committee. The Commission will take no further action with respect to these findings.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting to review any part of this Final Summary, please do not hesitate to contact an elections officer at (860) 256-2985 or via e-mail at [public.finance@ct.gov](mailto:public.finance@ct.gov).

### **Scope and Process**

Pursuant to a random lottery, your district was chosen for post-election review. By analyzing committees' documentation and records, Commission staff is able to identify common problems, discern areas of confusion, improve our training and outreach materials, and recommend legislative changes, if applicable.

Each committee is reviewed to determine that that campaign receipts were spent to promote the campaign of the candidate who established the committee. Contributions to participating candidates were reviewed at the time of the grant application and unless otherwise specified, any findings regarding receipts by the committee reflect information gathered then.

### **Results**

A draft audit report with some missing items was sent to the committee on August 26, 2025. The committee provided some of the requested information, and these issues have been resolved.

# EXHIBIT A

## Committee Overview

### Candidate Committee Information

<b>Committee Name</b>	<b>Cooley for Connecticut 2024</b>
<b>Candidate Name</b>	<b>Francis R Cooley</b>
<b>Treasurer Name</b>	<b>Dustin Bingham</b>
<b>Office Sought</b>	<b>State Representative</b>
<b>District</b>	<b>H-022</b>
<b>Party</b>	<b>Republican</b>
<b>Date of Registration</b>	<b>January 22, 2024</b>
<b>Date of Termination</b>	<b>January 2, 2025</b>
<b>Ballot Status</b>	<b>General Election (November 5, 2024)</b>

### Summary of Financial Activity

<b>Total Contributions Raised</b>	<b>\$7,870.00</b>
<b>Personal Funds of Candidate</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Citizens' Election Fund Grant Amount</b>	<b>\$36,500.00</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>\$42,300.00</b>
<b>Surplus Funds (Returned to Citizens' Election Fund)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

### Summary of Qualifying Contributions

At application, each contribution was reviewed in order to determine if it met the two-part threshold for a qualifying contribution. This committee raised a total of \$7870.00 and 234 contributions. Of this amount, at least \$5,800 and 150 were determined to meet the thresholds for qualifying for a CEP grant.

## EXHIBIT B

### Transactions Requiring Supporting Documentation and/or Explanation

Exhibit B4

Name of Payee/Creditor	Invoice # detail	Amount	Description
CT Website Co	# 1002604339655 Comcast Advertising WNTY Radio Advertising	\$7,000.00 \$1,200.00	Contract required for any services provided. Please provide missing contract and also secondary payee information.

*Committee Response:* Committee responded, “No contact information for their employees or contractors. We contracted with CT Website Company for their services and don't know who they have on their staff to pay.”

*Commission Recommendation:* Written pre-approval for campaign services provide important protection for treasurers and must be utilized. Treasurers who fail to reduce their agreements to writing, with adequate detail of the work to be provided and how much it is to be charged, risk personal liability for amounts ultimately charged that may or may not have been approved by them. In the future, make certain that you maintain records reflecting what exactly you agreed to pay for and the amount you agreed to pay.

You must also maintain copies of invoices which adequately reflect the amount of work that was performed. You should determine if a campaign service provider is subcontracting on behalf of the committee and, if so, disclose accordingly. For example, the name of companies from which newspaper advertisements were purchased must be provided, along with the amounts paid to those providers by the campaign service providers subcontracting work out to them.

Exhibit B5

Name of Payee/Creditor	Date of Payment	Amount	Description
Dustin Bingham/Hearst Media	10/08/2024	\$1,800.00	Invoices provided but any service required a signed contract prior to work begin date.
Dustin Bingham/Oh Ya Marketing	10/11/2024	\$1,000.00	
Dustin Bingham/AMP Radio	10/21/2024	\$975.00	
Dustin Bingham/FLS Connect	10/24/2024	\$745.50	
FLS Connect	10/28/2024	\$599.52	Invoices provided but any service required a signed contract prior to work begin date.
	10/30/2024	\$599.52	
Francis Cooley/Hearst Media	10/06/2024	\$575.00	Invoices provided but any service required a signed contract prior to work begin date.

*Committee Response:* Committee initially provided all the invoices and copies of cancelled check and responded as, “We hire for services but do not have contracts. The companies provide services as a product, and we pay for them.”

*Commission Recommendation:* Written agreements for campaign services provide important protections for treasurers and must be utilized. In the future, make certain that you maintain records reflecting what exactly you agreed to pay for and the amount you agreed to pay. You must also maintain copies of documentation such as invoices which adequately reflect the amount of work that was performed.

Exhibit B6

Name of Payee/Creditor	Invoice detail	Amount	Description
CT Website Co	# 1002604339655		Please provide airtime detail for TV/radio ads.
	Comcast Advertising	\$7,000.00	
	WNTY Radio Advertising	\$1,200.00	
Dustin Bingham/ AMP Radio	# 40647		Please provide airtime detail for TV/radio ads.
	AMP Radio Network Advertising– 50 avail	\$750.00	
	AMP Radio Network Advertising– 60 avail	\$225.00	

*Committee Response:* Committee initially provided all the invoices and responded as, “No contact information for their employees or contractors. We contracted with CT Website Company and AMP Radio for their services and have their schedule time and cannot get it from them.”

*Commission Recommendation:* The Commission advises the Committee to maintain and provide contemporaneous documentation of each expenditure.

Exhibit B8

We noted that you deposited \$300.00 into the committee’s account on 9/27/2024. This was classified as a loan to the committee. It is prohibited to loan a CEP candidate committee. Please explain the reason why the \$300.00 was deposited into the committee’s account.

*Committee Response:* Committee responded as, “I deposited \$300 to the campaign on 9/27/2024 as a loan because we had a check that was sent and the grant had not been received, but approved, and I was concerned that a campaign check that I had sent to a vendor would have insufficient funds.”

*Commission Recommendation:* The Commission advises the Committee to adhere to the rules and regulations regarding permissible receipts of a candidate committee participating in the Citizens' Election Program.