



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

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February 18, 2026

Kristi J Doerr  
Mandato for the 34th  
12 Penny Ln  
Wallingford, CT 06492

Re: Final Summary of Post Elections Review (PER)

Dear Treasurer Kristi:

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: Brandi A Mandato, 56 South Ave, North Haven, CT 06473  
Riley G O'Connell, 39 Edgerton Rd, Wallingford, CT 06492



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## **Final Summary of Post-Election Review**

### **“Mandato for the 34th”**

**April 24, 2024 – January 1, 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 post-election review report with some missing items was sent to the committee on October 7, 2025, and the committee provided most of the requested information.

# EXHIBIT A

## Committee Overview

### Candidate Committee Information

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Committee Name</b>       | <b>Mandato for the 34th</b>                |
| <b>Candidate Name</b>       | <b>Brandi A Mandato</b>                    |
| <b>Treasurer Name</b>       | <b>Kristi J Doerr</b>                      |
| <b>Office Sought</b>        | <b>State Senator</b>                       |
| <b>District</b>             | <b>S-34</b>                                |
| <b>Party</b>                | <b>Democrat</b>                            |
| <b>Date of Registration</b> | <b>April 24, 2024</b>                      |
| <b>Date of Termination</b>  | <b>January 1, 2025</b>                     |
| <b>Ballot Status</b>        | <b>General Election (November 5, 2024)</b> |

### Summary of Financial Activity

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Total Contributions Raised</b>                          | <b>\$19,980.00</b>  |
| <b>Personal Funds of Candidate</b>                         | <b>\$320.00</b>     |
| <b>Citizens' Election Fund Grant Amount</b>                | <b>\$123,780.00</b> |
| <b>Expenditures</b>  | <b>\$115,979.06</b> |
| <b>Surplus Funds (Returned to Citizens' Election Fund)</b> | <b>\$25,420.94</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 \$19,980.00 and 482 contributions. Of this amount, at least \$17,300 and 300 were determined to meet the thresholds for qualifying for a CEP grant.

## EXHIBIT B

### Transactions Requiring Supporting Documentation and/or Explanation

#### Exhibit B1

| Name of Payee/Creditor | Date of Payment | Amount     | Method of Payment | Description   |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------|---|
| 818 Political          | 10/08/2024      | \$6,212.78 | EFT               | Any service requires a contract signed by both parties prior to work begin date. Please provide the missing contract. |
|                        | 09/12/2024      | \$4,289.70 | EFT               |   |
|                        | 11/13/2024      | \$3,097.54 | EFT               |   |

*Committee Response:* Committee initially provided all the invoices and copies of cancelled checks. Committee responded as, "We have had some difficulty with the additional information from 818 as they are out of business. We had extensive conversation with them and approved all work and fees. However, I cannot find a contract in our records."

*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 B2

| Name of Payee/Creditor      | Invoice # & detail                  | Amount     | Description  |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|--|
| Bergmann Zwerling Direct    | # 9496                              |            | Invoices were provided but missing the following elements:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second payee information</li> <li>• Price list for mailers</li> </ul> |
|                             | BMandato 24G-03 10.5x17 2F Help     | \$8,062.20 |  |
|                             | BMandato 24G-03 10.5x17 2F Help     | \$4,777.60 |  |
|                             | Postage                             | 300.00     |  |
|                             | # 9307                              |            |  |
|                             | BMandato 24G-01 8.5x11 The Choice   | \$7,166.40 |  |
|                             | BMandato 24G-01 8.5x11 The Choice   | \$5,374.80 |  |
|                             | Postage                             | \$300.00   |  |
|                             | # 9714                              |            |  |
|                             | BMandato 24G-05 8.5x11 Bad Neighbor | \$7,166.40 |  |
|                             | BMandato 24G-05 8.5x11 Bad Neighbor | \$5,374.80 |  |
|                             | Postage                             | \$300.00   |  |
|                             | # 9391                              |            |  |
| BMandato 24G-02 6x11 Ripoff | \$6,867.80                          |            |  |
| BMandato 24G-02 6x11 Ripoff | \$4,777.60                          |            |  |
| Postage                     | \$300.00                            |            |  |

|                              |            |  |
|------------------------------|------------|--|
| # 9544                       |            |  |
| BMandato 24G-04 6x11 Fraud   | \$6,867.80 |  |
| BMandato 24G-04 6x11 Fraud   | \$4,777.60 |  |
| Postage                      | \$300.00   |  |
| #9741                        |            |  |
| BMandato 24G-06 6x11 Failure | \$6,867.80 |  |
| BMandato 24G-06 6x11 Failure | \$4,777.60 |  |
| Postage                      | 300.00     |  |

*Committee Response:* Committee initially provided the invoices and copies of cancelled checks. Committee now provided an excel spreadsheet budget, as well as Bergmann Zweling Direct mailing services contract. Still missing secondary payee information and price list for mailers.

*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.

We note that more than 60% of the grant was spent with one vendor. Please be aware that the agency will be issuing regulations in the near future to address campaign general contractors and we welcome your input as we develop guidelines for such vendors.

This post-election review is successfully concluded. We thank the committee for its responsiveness during this process.