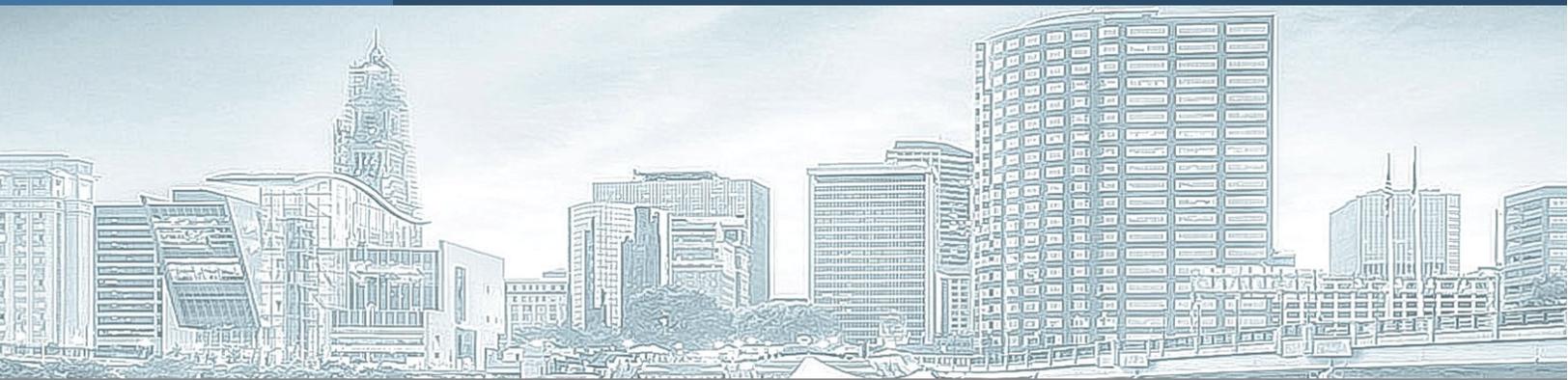




NEWSLETTER

July 2016

Volume 2



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The CEP season has begun!



The Commission began awarding public grants to qualified General Assembly candidates in late May and will continue to do so through early October.

All candidates, whether participating or not, are required to file an affidavit opting in or out of the Program by 4:00 pm on July 15, 2016 if in a primary or by 4:00 pm on September 29, 2016 if only in the general election.

Committees must apply by 5:00 pm on Wednesday in order to qualify and be approved for a grant the following week. Candidates seeking a grant for a primary have until July 15, 2016 to apply for a grant while general election candidates have until October 14, 2016, but all committees are encouraged to apply as soon as they are ready.

CONTACT US

860-256-2940

Form 40 Available on eCRIS

The Commission is excited to announce that independent expenditure political committees are now able to file electronically by eCRIS! To set up your eCRIS account, please call our eCRIS helpdesk at **860-256-2930** or visit <http://seec.ct.gov/eCrisHome>.

Please note that since eCRIS is now available to SEEC Form 40 filers, filings sent by email or fax will no longer be accepted for the July quarterly filing or any future filings. Please keep in mind all 24-hour statements reporting independent expenditures on behalf of General Assembly candidates **must** be electronically filed. Filings that are currently permitted on paper (i.e., standard quarterly reports) may still be submitted in hard copy by mail or dropping them off. Please note that **all** filings must be electronic after July 2017.



Online Contribution Reviews for CEP Campaigns



More committees are applying for CEP grants earlier than ever. That is the good news. The bad news is that we are finding

that committees who did not have their online contribution sites reviewed by SEEC staff are finding that many if not all of their online donations cannot be qualified. These committees are suffering multiple continuances and their treasurers have to spend hours trying to fix problems that could have been avoided by having their online interface reviewed beforehand.

If you are setting up an online contribution page for your committee's website, please contact Commission staff to review your website before it goes live to make sure it captures the relevant information and complies with campaign finance law.

If it is already live, please notify your Elections Officer immediately so we can set up a review.

Please keep in mind that to have your website approved, you will need to provide us with (1) screenshots of the website; (2) a letter from the webmaster or the treasurer explaining how the website works; and (3) a sample transaction receipt and settlement report showing that the requisite contributor information is captured and will be available for our review. Our website has a [sample online contribution interface](#) for you to model your website after as well as a sample transaction receipt and the form letter that needs to be completed by the webmaster or treasurer.

Commission staff is also happy to offer this review service to all other types of committees, including nonparticipating candidate committees, party committees, and political committees.

STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

- ◆ Nicole Petit joined our Campaign Disclosure & Audit Unit as an Accounts Career Trainee, replacing Amit Shah. The Commission is very appreciative of the hard work and dedication Amit put forth during his time here.
- ◆ Lead Legal Investigator Charlie Urso retired after serving as a crucial part of the Commission's enforcement team for over nine years. We thank him for his contributions and wish him well on his retirement.
- ◆ The Commission and staff are happy to have welcomed back Accounts Examiner Karen Walauskas and Elections Officer Sarah Clark earlier this year and congratulate them both on the new additions to their families.
- ◆ The Commission and staff also congratulate Accounts Career Trainee Ergys Guni on his recent wedding.
- ◆ Finally, we are happy to announce that Elections Officer Lisa Nightingale welcomed a daughter on June 28, 2016.





2016 Legislative Session – Mandatory Electronic Filing

The 2016 legislative session came to an end with the passage of one campaign finance bill. Pursuant to Public Act 2016-203, there will be mandatory electronic filing for most committees registered with the Commission effective July 1, 2017. Specifically, the following committees will be required to file by eCRIS: (1) candidate committees and exploratory committees of candidates registered with SEEC that raise or spend \$1,000 or more; (2) all state central committees, legislative caucus committees and legislative leadership committees; (3) town committees and political committees registered with SEEC that raise or spend \$1,000 or more during the current calendar year or in the preceding regular election cycle; and (4) any other committees or other persons (including individuals and businesses) who make or obligate to make an independent expenditure in excess of \$1,000 on behalf of a statewide office, General Assembly, or judge of probate candidate. If a treasurer is able to demonstrate good cause for not being able to file electronically, the Commission may waive the requirement.

Committees filing by paper are encouraged to make the switch to eCRIS as soon as they are ready. We offer many trainings (see below) and even one-on-one trainings for those who are not able to make it to a group training.

For those committees that will file by paper until the July 2017 deadline or will continue to file by paper after then by permission of the Commission, the bill also added a provision that permits the Commission to consider a committee's receipt from the post office or a commercial delivery service confirming that the statement was made or should have been made to the Commission by the deadline. This provision is effective immediately. Thus, if you are filing by mail, we strongly encourage you to drop your statement off at the post office or other delivery service and obtain a receipt indicating that the statement will be received on or before the deadline date. If the statement ends up being late, the Commission can now consider this receipt in determining whether you owe a \$100 late filing fee.

See [Public Act 2016-203](#) for the full act.

Expenditures for other Candidates

a friendly
reminder

Candidate committees may only expend funds to promote the nomination or election of the candidate who established the committee. This is particularly important for candidates accepting clean election funds. If a candidate committee would like to put forth a communication that is

not all directly related to the candidate's own race but promotes the success or defeat of a candidate who is in a different race, then the committee should consider doing the communication as a joint expenditure with a committee that is permitted to spend on the other race. For more information, please see [Declaratory Ruling 2011-03: Candidate Committees and Joint Communications](#) and [Advisory Opinion 2014-04: Negative Communications Featuring Candidates for Different Offices](#) or call and ask to speak with a Compliance attorney.



July Quarterly Report

The filing period for the July quarterly report commences July 1, 2016 and ends July 11, 2016 (since July 10 is a Sunday).

Paper filers – please keep in mind that the Commission cannot receive your filing before the filing period commences (i.e., prior to July 1) and must receive your filing by 5:00 pm on July 11, 2016. eCRIS filers have until 11:59 pm on July 11, 2016 to submit their filings. Paper filers should also keep in mind that a disclosure statement filed with the Commission must, at a minimum, be signed and dated under penalty of false statement by the treasurer or deputy treasurer (if applicable), cover the appropriate time period, and be on the proper SEEC form. The Commission is no longer able to accept a treasurer’s printed spreadsheets in lieu of any section of the SEEC form. If a statement does not meet these requirements, it will be posted for the public’s view but will not be deemed a sufficient filing and will result in penalties for non-filing if not corrected by the filing deadline. If you have any questions as you prepare your July quarterly filing, please call the State Elections Enforcement Commission at 860-256-2940.

CEP

TRAINING SCHEDULE

- ◆ 9:00 AM – July 6, 2016
- ◆ 7:00 PM – July 20, 2016
- ◆ 9:00 AM – August 3, 2016
- ◆ 7:00 PM – August 17, 2016
- ◆ 9:00 AM – September 7, 2016
- ◆ 7:00 PM – September 21, 2016

eCRIS

TRAINING SCHEDULE

- ◆ 11:00 AM – July 6, 2016
- ◆ 5:00 PM – July 20, 2016
- ◆ 11:00 AM – August 3, 2016
- ◆ 5:00 PM – August 17, 2016
- ◆ 11:00 AM – September 7, 2016
- ◆ 5:00 PM – September 21, 2016

The Commission is offering trainings to candidates, treasurers, and deputy treasurers participating in the Citizens’ Election Program. The following trainings will take place at the Commission’s offices at 20 Trinity Street in Hartford.

The Commission is also offering trainings at its offices for new eCRIS users as well. These trainings are scheduled to coincide with the CEP trainings so people can attend both if interested.

To RSVP to any of these trainings, please email your name, committee name and phone number to: seec.training@ct.gov.



If you are unable to attend one of these eCRIS trainings but would still like to be trained on eCRIS, please contact Elections Officer Sarah Clark at 860-256-2964 or sarah.r.clark@ct.gov to set up a one-on-one training.



Secondary Payee Reporting and Documentation

Campaigns often hire consultants and committee workers who in turn pay other vendors (known as “secondary payees”) to provide goods and services to the committee. During our post-election reviews last election cycle, we discovered that the most common error was a failure to disclose secondary payee information. As you may recall, committees are required to report payments to consultants and committee workers in the Expense Section (Section N of the SEEC Form 30 / Section P of the SEEC Form 20) and then disclose who that person paid on behalf of the committee in Itemization of Reimbursements and Secondary Payees (Section R of the SEEC Form 30 / Section T of the SEEC Form 20). As a result of what we saw in the post-election reviews, the SEEC is engaging in increased training and outreach.

Commission staff has revised our sample [fee arrangement](#), [wage record](#), and [reimbursement and secondary payee information sheet](#) so that it is clear to all involved parties what type of secondary payee information must be provided. These samples are located on our website. If you have any questions, please call and ask to speak to one of our Compliance attorneys.

CONTACT US

SEEC Main Line:	860-256-2940	Email: seec@ct.gov
SEEC Candidate Services:	860-256-2985	Email: public.finance@ct.gov
SEEC Compliance Unit:	860-256-2925	Email: seec.compliance@ct.gov
eCRIS Help Desk:	860-256-2930	Email: seec.ecris.info@ct.gov
SEEC Website: ct.gov/seec	eCRIS Home Page: seec.ct.gov/ecris	

