



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
5th Floor Conference Room
May 16, 2018
9:30 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Bramante was present and called the meeting to order at 9:32 A.M. Commissioners Ajello and Penny were present. Commissioner Stankevicius was also present via teleconference. Agency staff was also present.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of April 18, 2018

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to approve the April 18, 2018 minutes by a 3-0-1-vote. Commissioner Stankevicius abstained. So voted.

III. Administrative Reports

Executive Director and General Counsel Michael Brandi updated the commission on the passage of the budget. SB 543 was signed into law by Governor Malloy yesterday. There were no changes made to the agency's funding, meaning we still have just enough to cover salaries and a small operating budget.

This year's budget surplus will go toward the purchase of equipment and any needed comp time to accomplish our work relative to the CEP.

Alphonse Vasquez has been hired as our new Legal Investigator. He has an impressive resume and we look forward to him joining our team.

Today is the first day of CEP season and the entire office is readying for the high volume of grant applications. Communication with candidates and committees has emphasized that they need to be organized and patient with their grant applications.

As the conventions occur for the various state offices along with the updates from the Secretary of the State's office on the petition pages, the field of candidates is becoming clearer.

The next meeting with the Secretary of State on the federal funds coming to Connecticut to support election cyber security happens tomorrow. The SEEC will be asking for \$38,000 to support hardware and software upgrades to bolster security from outside threats. The intentional threat is real and we are working constantly to

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preserve the security of our systems, including eCRIS. The majority of the remaining monies coming from the federal government will go toward upgrading the statewide voter registration system. The research that SOTS and SEEC have done so far has shown that the state election system is more difficult to hack into because it is segmented into 169 separate towns and because there is paper backup for voter registration records and the scanned ballots. The statewide voter registration system is a closed loop system, and now the local workstations need to be updates so the end users are not the system's weakness. While the federal monies are a help, Connecticut is going to need much more funding to really update and upgrade everything.

IV. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. In the Matter of a Complaint by Steven Sheinberg, Fairfield
File No. 2016-077A

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:	Anthony Hwang
Attorney:	Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator:	Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2016-077A. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2016-077A upon receipt in ten days. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

2. In re: Referral by Greenwich Registrars of Voters, Fred A. DeCaro, III and Michael A. Aurelia
File No. 2017-030

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent:	Sylvia E. James
Attorney:	Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator:	Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2017-030. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Stankevicius and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2017-

030. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In the Matter of Sharlene A. McEvoy, Derby
File No. 2017-045A & 2017-045B
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondents: Cheryl Pereiras and United
Illuminating Company
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2017-045A & 2017-045B. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Stankevicius and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2017-045A & 2017-045B. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Stephen P. Funk, Self-Report, Litchfield
File No. 2018-012
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent: Stephen P. Funk
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2018-012. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Stankevicius and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2018-012. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Norman Goldman, Glastonbury
File No. 2018-015
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondent: Norman Goldman
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2018-015. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2018-015. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Helen O. Losak, Bridgeport
File No. 2016-063

Reason to Believe Finding

Respondent:	Sonia S. Belardo
Attorney:	William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator:	Gilberto Oyola

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint. He recommended that the Commission find that there is a reason to believe that the named Respondent, Sonia S. Belardo, violated General Statutes under the jurisdiction of the Commission and that the Chair of the Commission appoint a hearing officer for a hearing on the matter in File No. 2016-063.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Request for Reason to Believe Finding in File No. 2016-063. Commissioner Penny has been appointed as hearing officer in the matter. So voted by a vote 4-0-0.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Linda Szykowitz, Middletown
File Nos. 2016-093A and 2016-093B

Proposed Consent Orders & Agreements

Respondents:	Joesph C. Serra and Thomas J. Serra
Attorney:	William B. Smith
Legal Investigator:	Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File Nos. 2016-093A and 2016-093B. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File Nos. 2016-093A and 2016-093B. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

V. Executive Session per General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1), (3),(4),(10) and General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48 §300 (Preliminary draft and agency consideration of enforcement action and exempt records relative thereto)

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello at 10:29 A.M. to proceed into Executive Session pursuant to General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1),(3),(4),(10) to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and exempt records. So voted.

Commissioners Bramante, Ajello and Penny were present. Commissioner Stankevicius was present via teleconference. Staff members present were Ryan Burns, James Talbert-Slagle, Kevin Ahern, Scott Branfuhr, Evelyn Gratacos, Joshua Foley, Lindsey Leung, Linda Waterman, Doug Frost, Shannon Kief, Michael J. Brandi, Sarah Clark and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

The Commission returned to public session at 12:35 P.M.

The Commission took the following actions in public session:

1. Recommendation of Counsel Regarding Petition for Declaratory Ruling on the Political Activity of Organized Groups as requested by Arnold F. Skretta (on behalf of Connecticut Compliance and Law Services LLC)

Commissioner Bramante read the following order into the record: motion to approve the release of the proposed declaratory ruling in order that the notice be posted on the SEEC website and notice to be sent to all persons who were sent notice the receipt of the petition and the comment period to close at 11:59 pm on June 13, 2018.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the above order for Proposed Declaratory Ruling 2018-0018. So approved by the Commission 4-0-0. So voted.

2. Recommendation of Counsel: Necessary to Investigate Determination pursuant to General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48 §300

Attorney Smith summarized the Recommendation of Counsel dated May 3, 2018 and requested that two (7) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to seven (7) complaints File Nos.: 2018-020, 2018-021, 2018-022, 2018-023,

2018-024, 2018-025 and 2018-026. So approved by the Commission, 4-0-0.
So voted.

3. In re: *SEEC Initiated Contributions for Grant Application to the Committee to Elect Joseph Vollano*
File No. 2016-079
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney William B. Smith summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2016-079. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2016-079. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Shawn P. Murphy, North Stonington
File No. 2017-088
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: William B. Smith
Lead Legal Investigator: Gilberto Oyola

The matter is continued.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Jeffrey S. Winter, Milford
File No. 2017-072
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-072. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Consent Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2017-072. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Bonnie A. Nault, Mystic
File No. 2018-005
Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:
Legal Investigator:

Ryan M. Burns
Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2018-005. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Consent Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2018-005. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

8. In the Matter of a Complaint by Joel Gonzalez, Bridgeport
File No. 2015-123

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:
Lead Legal Investigator:

Kevin M. Ahern
Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-123. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Proposed Consent Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-123. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

9. In the Matter of Complaint by Joel Gonzalez & Wilkins Ramos, Bridgeport
File No. 2015-124

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:
Lead Legal Investigator:

Kevin M. Ahern
Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-124. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Penny to adopt the Proposed Consent Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-124. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

10. In re: Referral of the Greenwich Registrars of Voters
File No. 2018-006

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2018-006. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Consent Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2018-006. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

11. In the Matter of a Complaint by Maryli Secrest, Bridgeport

File No. 2015-117A

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-117A. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Consent Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-117A. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

12. In the Matter of a Complaint by Maryli Secrest, Bridgeport

File No. 2015-117B

Proposed Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Legal Investigator:

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-117B. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello to adopt the Proposed Consent Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2015-117B. So voted by a vote 4-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

13. Draft Audit Reports

1. "Arconti 2016, David Arconti"
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
2. "Candelaria 2016," Juan Candelaria
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
3. "Cassano for Senate," Stephen T. Cassano
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
4. "Linehan 2016," Liz Linehan
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
5. "Mihaly for State Rep.," Serge G. Mihaly, Jr.,
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
6. "Friends of Russ," Russell Morin
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
7. "Citizens for Mushinsky," Mary M. Mushinsky
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
8. "Friends of Lonnie Reed," Lonnie Reed
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
9. "Reynolds4staterep," Patrick J. Reynolds
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
10. "Friends of Emmett Riley," Emmett D. Riley
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle
11. "Tomchik 138," Jeffrey A. Tomchik
Attorney: James Talbert-Slagle

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle provided an overview of the draft audit reports and recommended that the Commission refer to enforcement audits 1 and 2 and 4 through 11. So moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello. So approved by the Commission, 4-0-0.

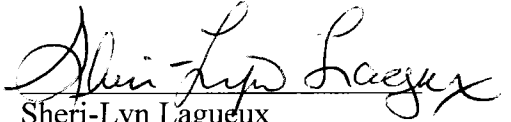
Attorney James Talbert-Slagle provided an overview of the draft audit report item 3 and recommended that the Commission refer to enforcement audit item 3. Commissioner Penny recused himself from this discussion. So moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Stankevicius. So approved by the Commission, 3-0-1. Commissioner Penny abstained.

VI. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session

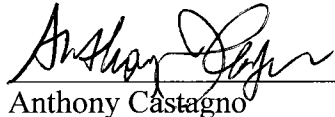
VII. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Penny and seconded by Commissioner Ajello at 1:48 P.M. to adjourn the meeting. So voted. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes of the Commission were unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,


Sheri-Lyn Lagueux
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 20th day of June, 2018 at Hartford, Connecticut.


Anthony Castagno
By Order of the Commission

The next regular scheduled meeting is June 20, 2018 at 9:30 A.M. in the 5th Floor Conference room.