

Questions for State Elections Enforcement Commission Nominee

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March 25, 2026 | 2026-R-0043

State Elections Enforcement Commission ([CGS §§ 9-7a to 9-7c](#))

- The State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) is responsible for administering and enforcing the state's public financing program, the Citizens' Election Program (CEP). It also investigates possible violations of election laws, inspects campaign finance records and reports, refers evidence of violations to the chief state's attorney or the attorney general, levies civil penalties for elections violations, issues advisory opinions, and makes recommendations to the General Assembly concerning revisions to the state's election laws.
- SEEC consists of five members who serve three-year, staggered terms. The governor and the four legislative leaders each appoint one member. No more than two may belong to the same political party, and at least one must not be affiliated with any political party. Both houses of the General Assembly confirm. Members cannot serve more than two consecutive terms.
- The commission elects one of its members to serve as chairperson and another to serve as vice-chairperson. It may employ individuals necessary to perform its functions.

Questions

1. As a commissioner, what role have you played in SEEC decisions about alleged election law violations? Is this the appropriate role? Should it be expanded or reduced?
2. What emerging public policy issues are facing state elections enforcement agencies generally and SEEC specifically?
3. How has SEEC's investigation process changed over time, and do you think any changes to the process are needed going forward?

4. SEEC and the Office of the Secretary of the State both play a role in election administration. Are there opportunities for the organizations to collaborate? Do you believe election-related duties and responsibilities are appropriately divided between them? Please explain.
5. SEEC has undergone a transition period in the last year under an interim executive director. What has changed under her leadership? How has the commission worked with her to improve SEEC's operations?
6. SEEC recently hired Ryan Burns as its new executive director. Why was he chosen? What are his priorities and how will the commission work with him to implement them?
7. The first two gubernatorial candidates just qualified for public campaign financing under CEP. Are these procedures working as they should? Are any adjustments necessary for future elections?
8. Over the past years, several complaints were brought regarding the elections in Bridgeport, including from the secretary of the state's office. How are these complaints proceeding? How has SEEC been addressing these issues?
9. [PA 25-26](#) made several changes to the state's campaign finance laws, including implementing new oversight measures on certain SEEC guidance. What are your thoughts on these measures? How has implementation of these measure gone thusfar? Please explain.
10. SEEC has recently been charged to complete all candidate committee audits within 12 months of the committee being selected after an election. How has SEEC prepared to meet this requirement for the upcoming election cycle?
11. According to a [2025 Auditors of Public Accounts audit](#), SEEC failed to provide six of the eight reports it was statutorily required to provide the legislature in 2022 and 2023. Has this been rectified in recent years? If not, how is SEEC planning to address this?
12. Recently, the legislature enacted [PA 24-28](#) expanding the commission's authority to address complaints concerning foreign political spending in Connecticut elections. How has that affected the complaints your office has received? Are there any issues that have arisen that may need to be addressed?
13. In 2024, the legislature adopted [PA 24-148](#) to address several election security and transparency issues, including mandatory referral of certain complaints to the chief state's attorney. How have these measures affected complaints your office has received? What has been the effect of the referral process?
14. Recently, there has been a rise in artificial intelligence generating and spreading fake or misleading images, audio, and videos in order to influence elections. What role should the state play in addressing this issue? How would SEEC address election complaints on these matters?

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