



Office of the Secretary of the State
State of Connecticut
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To: Government Oversight Committee Co-Chairs Gadkar-Wilcox and Dathan, Ranking Members Sampson and Carney, Vice Chairs McCrory and Gucker, and distinguished members of the committee

From: Secretary of the State Stephanie Thomas 

Re: Enfield and Hartford Primary Petition Cases: Corrective Actions and Process Improvements

September 11, 2026

For today's forum, we were asked to focus on two matters that arose during the 2026 primary petitioning process: (1) the Enfield and Hartford primary petition cases and (2) confusion related to the state election calendar. This memo provides a summary of what occurred, the actions our Office has taken, and improvements we have made to strengthen our processes going forward.

Enfield Primary Petition Case

What happened: Two issues related to our Office became part of the litigation. First, as part of an effort to streamline the petition process for Registrars, our Office consolidated forms ED-619 and ED-619A into a single form. During that revision, the language was inadvertently changed to instruct candidates to list the total number of signatures across all petition pages, rather than the number of signatures appearing on each petition page, as required by law.

Second, a version of our election calendar being used by local officials did not clearly distinguish the petition circulation rules for single-town state legislative offices from those that apply to other offices. On the calendar's first page, a single-town state representative race was listed under the heading "Candidates for State and District Office," followed by the statement that "district office petitions" would be issued beginning May 26. Because Connecticut law classifies a state representative serving a district located entirely within one town as holding a municipal office, the Enfield Registrars relied on that broader municipal-office language and concluded that petitions could be issued on May 22, the day after the Enfield endorsement — four days before the May 26 date required by law.

Actions taken: We acknowledge both errors, tracing them to human error. The petition form has since been corrected.

While the Enfield Registrars made the decision to issue the petitions, we recognize that our calendar contributed to that misunderstanding. We also accept responsibility for not



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presenting that information as clearly as we should have. To prevent similar confusion in the future, the Office revised the 2026 Election Calendar to expressly distinguish single-town state senator and state representative races from multi-town district offices and to clearly identify the petition issuance dates that apply to each. Those revisions were made to provide clearer guidance to Registrars, candidates, and election officials throughout Connecticut.

Find handouts related to the petition and calendar within the folder you were given this morning.

Hartford Primary Petition Case

What happened: The Hartford case involved the same petition form language that was at issue in the Enfield matter.

Actions taken: We corrected the form for future elections and strengthened our internal document review process as described below.

Process Improvements

In addition to correcting the petition form and election calendar, we reviewed our existing internal processes to identify where they could be stronger. Among the improvements:

- **Expanded review and clearance:** We expanded our existing internal review process to create a more formal clearance protocol for forms and official communications, supported by additional staff training.
- **Stronger statutory tracking:** We strengthened how we track forms and guidance by linking them directly to the statutes that govern them. When a law changes, we can more readily identify every document that may need to change with it.
- **Stronger version control:** We strengthened document-management procedures so staff can more readily identify and access the current, approved version of forms, guidance and other election materials.

These improvements build upon processes already in place and reflect our commitment to learning from errors, strengthening our work, and reducing the likelihood that the same errors will occur again.

Additional information about these improvements and the scope of the Elections Division's work is included in the accompanying materials.