

Questions for State Elections Enforcement Commission Nominee

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February 7, 2025 | 2025-R-0036

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. 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?
4. Last year, 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?
5. What do you consider to be the major strengths and weaknesses of Connecticut's campaign finance laws? How would you address any weaknesses?
6. 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? Should their authority be expanded or narrowed? Please explain.
7. [PA 23-205](#) doubled the CEP general election grant amount available to participating gubernatorial candidates and also created a convention campaign grant for which they may apply before the nominating convention. What are your thoughts on these measures? Do you think they will incentivize gubernatorial candidates to participate in the program? Are there other measures the legislature could consider enacting? Please explain.
8. About how many investigations does SEEC conduct annually? For what types of allegations? On average, how much time does it take SEEC to dispose of a case? About how many investigations result in a sanction? Further, how has this changed over the past few years?
9. SEEC is authorized to levy a civil penalty of up to \$2,000 per offense or twice the amount of any improper payment or contribution, whichever is greater, for a campaign finance violation. Do you believe the maximum fine should be changed? Do you feel the commission's authority to enforce these laws is adequate?
10. Several complaints were brought regarding the recent municipal elections in Bridgeport, including from the secretary of the state's office. How are these complaints proceeding? How has SEEC been addressing these issues?
11. Last session, 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?

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