



2025 Acts Affecting Town Clerks and Elections

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Notice to Readers

This report provides summaries of new laws (public acts) significantly affecting town clerks and elections enacted during the 2025 regular legislative session. OLR's other Acts Affecting reports, including Acts Affecting Municipalities, are, or will soon be, available on [OLR's website](#).

Each summary indicates the public act (PA) number. Not all provisions of the acts are included. The report does not include vetoed acts unless the veto was overridden. Complete summaries of public acts are, or will soon be, available on [OLR's website](#).

Readers are encouraged to obtain the full text of acts that interest them from the [General Assembly's website](#) or the Connecticut State Library.

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Campaign Finance

Audits

This year, the legislature reduced the maximum percentage of candidate committees the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) may audit after an election or primary from 50% to 20%. The legislature also now requires SEEC to complete these audits within 12 months after a committee is selected. Furthermore, SEEC must annually report to the Government Oversight Committee on any audits from the prior calendar year that it was unable to complete within the required period, along with the reasons for the failure to do so ([PA 25-26](#), § 3, effective July 1, 2025).

Election Disclaimers

As part of a new law, the legislature modified the disclaimer requirements for certain communications from campaign committees. Specifically, the legislature (1) amended the requirements for written, typed, or printed communication; (2) expanded these requirements to text messages; and (3) modified the requirements for television and internet video advertising by a candidate or a candidate or exploratory committee ([PA 25-26](#), § 2, effective July 1, 2025).

Qualifying Contributions for the CEP

In 2025, a new act adjusts when and how qualifying contributions (QC) and aggregate contribution limits for the Citizens' Election Program (CEP) must be adjusted for inflation. Additionally, the new law requires the adjusted individual QC amounts to remain in effect until SEEC makes its next adjustment. Further, if the new maximum QC amount would be lower after the inflationary adjustment, the law now requires that the prior maximum be maintained until the next adjustment.

The act also (1) adjusts the procedures for returning nonqualifying contributions; (2) allows nonqualifying contributions to be donated to charity in certain circumstances; (3) makes adjustments to the CEP grant application to reflect these changes; (4) limits SEEC's ability to disqualify certain QCs; and (5) amends SEEC's notification requirements to the comptroller regarding CEP grants ([PA 25-26](#), §§ 7 & 8, effective July 1, 2025).

Election Administration

Absentee Voting Procedures for Eligible Incarcerated Individuals

A new act requires the secretary of the state to create absentee ballot application forms for use by eligible voters within Department of Correction (DOC) facilities and to provide these forms to DOC. The act also establishes procedures for creating, distributing, and processing these applications

and exempts DOC employees who distribute these forms from certain absentee ballot distributor requirements ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 289-292, effective January 1, 2026).

Curbside Voting

The legislature made several changes to the state's curbside voting laws this year, including (1) eliminating the requirement that the voter's incapacity be temporary to use curbside voting; (2) requiring registrars to designate a specific area for curbside voting; and (3) prohibiting certain activities (e.g., soliciting on behalf of or in opposition to a candidate) within or near the designated area ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 295-296, effective January 1, 2026).

Early Voting Location on College Campuses

A new law requires a municipality's registrars of voters to designate an additional on-campus early voting location if the municipality has (1) a campus of a constituent unit of higher education and (2) at least 1,000 students living in housing on the campus or in housing the constituent unit owns, operates, or is affiliated with. Like other early voting locations, the added location must be (1) able to connect to the Centralized Voter Registration System; (2) certified by the secretary of the state; and (3) accessible to voters with disabilities ([PA 25-168](#), § 293, effective July 1, 2025).

Election-Related Translations

In 2025, the legislature established the Translation Advisory Committee for (1) validating the translation of election-related materials for accuracy, (2) ensuring they meet the intended audience's needs in a culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate way, and (3) making recommendations to the secretary of the state and municipal officials on related matters.

Additionally, municipalities required by law to make election-related materials available in non-English languages must (1) use professional translators when translating these materials and (2) submit these materials to the Translation Advisory Committee ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 297 & 298, effective July 1, 2025, but the municipal requirements are effective January 1, 2026).

Same-Day Election Registration Proof of Address

By law, a person may apply to register to vote through same-day election registration by following the procedures outlined in state law. As part of the application, a voter must generally provide certain information to the admitting official, including his or her residential address, as well as certain documents proving this information (e.g., driver's license). If these documents do not prove the applicant's address, he or she may submit identification showing it (e.g., a learner's permit or utility bill). A new legislative act additionally allows applicants to prove their address through the

sworn testimony of another elector, as already allowed by state law under the regular voting registration procedures ([PA 25-168](#), § 294, effective July 1, 2025).

Voting Tabulators

Under existing law, municipalities must authorize payment for purchasing, leasing, or otherwise acquiring a sufficient number of voting tabulators. A new law authorizes the secretary of the state, regardless of this requirement, to purchase approved voting tabulators or tabulator accessories directly from the manufacturer and transfer ownership of them to the municipalities ([PA 25-5](#), effective upon passage).

Municipal Government

Port Eastside and Park City Landing Infrastructure Improvement Districts

This session, the legislature authorized two special taxing districts to provide services and finance infrastructure improvements in designated areas: the Port Eastside Infrastructure Improvement District in East Hartford and the Park City Landing Infrastructure Improvement District in Bridgeport. The act specifies each district's geographic boundaries and formation process, which are similar to what is required for establishing statutory special taxing districts, and starts when 15 or more people eligible to vote in the municipality petition the mayor to call a meeting of the district's eligible voters to vote on the issue.

Each district must have nine officers. The officers are generally the same as those for the statutory districts (president, vice president, clerk, treasurer, and five directors) except that the respective mayor must appoint one of the directors, who serves at the mayor's pleasure. At least three directors in each district must be Connecticut residents.

Each district clerk must comply with generally the same reporting requirements applicable to clerks of statutory districts. This includes notifying the municipality about its formation, identifying the district's officers, providing a copy of its charter or special act, and describing its organizational structure and finances. Each clerk must also record the district's name and boundaries in the land records and include a caveat in those records ([PA 25-90](#), effective upon passage).

Records and Filings

Birth Certificates

A new law extends to legal guardians an existing process allowing a parent whose child was born outside of a health care institution, but who cannot provide the required information for the birth certificate, to seek a probate court order during the child's first year for the town registrar of vital statistics to prepare the certificate ([PA 25-48](#), § 1, effective upon passage).

Community Investment Account

In 2025, the legislature made several changes to the laws regarding the community investment account. Primarily, it (1) increased, from \$40 to \$50, the land record recording fee that funds the account; (2) generally increased the amount that town clerks and municipalities receive for collecting this fee; (3) increased the amounts the designated recipients receive from the account; and (4) renamed it the "Donald E. Williams, Jr. community investment account" ([PA 25-168](#), §§ 411-414, effective July 1, 2025).

Dog Tag Costs

A new law allows the agriculture commissioner to charge municipalities the actual cost to obtain and distribute dog tags, rather than five cents per tag as under prior law. By law, dog owners must license their dogs with and get a dog tag from their town clerk, and town clerks must order the necessary number of dog tags from the agriculture commissioner ([PA 25-152](#), § 4, effective October 1, 2025).

Mortgage Filings

A new law establishes a 10-year statute of limitations for bringing foreclosure actions on certain mortgages for one-to-four family dwellings that the borrower uses as his or her home. The bar generally begins 10 years after the last payment due date, maturity date, or the last payment made by or on the borrower's behalf. The deadline to bring the action may be extended by written agreement or if, during the last two years of the 10-year period, a law, rule, or order prevents it from being brought. Mortgages exempt from the statute of limitations are those (1) recorded before 2026 and first in priority when recorded or (2) subordinate when recorded but still held by the original lender or a subsidiary, affiliate, or successor.

This same act separately reduces, from 20 to 10 years, the time after which an unreleased mortgage is deemed invalid under certain circumstances. This occurs when there is an unreleased mortgage on the land records and the mortgagor or current landowner has had undisputed possession for at least this term of years after the mortgage should have been paid off. The person

in possession must file an affidavit that meets certain conditions, but a mortgage holder may record a notice before this time expires to extend the period for another 10 years ([PA 25-46](#), §§ 1 & 2, effective January 1, 2026).

Short Form Death Certificates

A new law requires the public health commissioner, by January 1, 2026, to establish a process for someone to request a short-form death certificate for a death that occurred on or after January 1, 2021. The short-form death certificate must exclude the medical certification part of the death certificate that identifies the decedent's cause of death. Under prior law, the state only offered long-form death certificates that included information on the cause of death.

Under the act, requestors may give the short-form death certificate to people or institutions (e.g., banks and financial institutions, mortgage lenders, and the motor vehicles department) that do not need to know the decedent's cause of death. Existing law generally allows anyone age 18 or older to purchase a certified copy of a death record ([PA 25-97](#), § 23, effective upon passage).

Validating Recorded Documents

A new law statutorily extends the law's validation of recorded real property documents with certain defects or omissions to documents recorded before January 2, 1997. This validation generally applies to deeds, mortgages, leases, powers of attorney (POA), releases, assignments, or certain other real property documents. Examples of defects covered by the validation rule are improper attestations, incorrect or missing dates, failures to reference recorded POAs, or failing to post a required bond ([PA 25-136](#), effective July 1, 2025).

State Elections Enforcement Commission

Executive Director Appointments

A new law requires, by March 1, 2027, and every four years after, SEEC to appoint a person as its executive director for a four-year term starting March 1 of the nominating year. The law further specifies that an executive director may only be reappointed once.

Under the law, before SEEC reappoints its executive director for an additional term, the Government Oversight and Government Administration and Elections committees must hold a joint public hearing for the executive director to appear and discuss SEEC's operations, achievements, and future initiatives, as well as the health of the CEP ([PA 25-26](#), § 9, as amended by [PA 25-174](#), §§ 226-227, effective July 1, 2025).

Guidance and Documentation

A new act makes several changes to SEEC's authority to issue guidance and declaratory rulings. Specifically, the act (1) explicitly requires SEEC to issue declaratory rulings under the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, (2) generally restricts SEEC from issuing declaratory rulings or advisory opinions on the CEP within 180 days before a state election, and (3) generally requires new or revised SEEC guidance relating to campaign finance or the CEP and that is over a certain length to be submitted to the Government Oversight Committee and four legislative leaders. It also requires, starting January 1, 2026, SEEC to publish a complete and detailed list of all documentation and internal records (subject to certain requirements) that a treasurer of a qualified candidate committee must maintain and give to SEEC in order to comply with an audit ([PA 25-26](#), §§ 4-6, effective July 1, 2025).

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