

Questions for Office of Policy and Management Secretary Nominee

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March 25, 2026 | 2026-R-0044

Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) ([CGS §§ 4-65a](#) & [4-66](#))

The OPM secretary is responsible for (1) all aspects of state staff planning and analysis for budgeting, management, energy policy, intergovernmental policy, criminal and juvenile justice planning, and program evaluation; (2) maintaining financial records; (3) examining agencies to determine their effectiveness and recommending ways to improve them; and (4) serving as the employer representative in collective bargaining between the state and most state employee unions.

Questions

1. How has your background and professional experience, including at the comptroller's office, prepared you for this position? What will be your top initiatives and objectives as secretary? How do you plan to accomplish them?
2. One of the governor's legislative proposals this year, [HB 5030](#), sets out several agency changes, including removing energy policy as an OPM responsibility and dissolving the Office of Health Strategy.
 - a. What are your thoughts on this proposal?
 - b. Do you believe OPM's current configuration is effective or should any of its responsibilities or functions be reorganized or transferred to other agencies? Should any other structural or operational changes be made to other state agencies?

2. The CT Mirror recently [reported](#) that tentative deals have been reached with 10 state bargaining units, but that more than half of the overall unions still work under wage agreements that expired last July 1.
 - a. What are the new agreements' key provisions?
 - b. More broadly, what are your thoughts on the current levels of staffing at agencies? Are any experiencing shortages? Does the state face any particular challenges in attracting or retaining staff?
3. Changes at the federal level, including the FY25 Reconciliation Law (P.L. 119-21), and global conflicts are impacting state governments and residents across the country. What is your current outlook on Connecticut's budget and economy? Do you think the state's reserves are sufficient to weather a future recession? Do you have a plan for using the recently enacted Federal Cuts Response Fund from [SA 26-1](#) to address reductions or delays in federal funding?
4. What is your assessment of the state's long-term liabilities and debt level? What do you see as the state's biggest upcoming capital needs? Do you expect any changes in the Bond Commission process, including how the administration plans to evaluate bonding proposals?
5. Another of this year's legislative proposals from the governor, [SB 84](#), would, among other things, authorize a one-time sales tax rebate for income-eligible state resident taxpayers and increase the threshold of the state's volatility cap.
 - a. What are your views on tax policy generally? What is your process for considering whether temporary or permanent tax changes should be made?
 - b. What are your opinions on the state's "guardrails" or fiscal controls that limit state spending and borrowing (i.e. spending cap, revenue cap, volatility cap, budget reserve fund, bond caps, and bond lock)?
6. In January, the [governor directed](#) OPM to take several actions related to land use valuations of Connecticut farmland, forestland, open space, and maritime heritage land, including reinstating their 2020 recommended land use values. Can you explain what led up to that decision and what actions your office has taken since? Is legislation needed to further address this situation?
7. Following a [recent audit](#), OPM implemented a new statewide policy on the management and administration of legislative earmarks (set out in [General Letter 2026-01](#)) and the governor proposed related legislation ([HB 5039](#)). Can you summarize this policy and proposal and how they were developed? How will they impact the budgeting process moving forward?
8. An Act Concerning Housing Growth ([PA 25-1](#), November Special Session) directs OPM to perform various functions regarding housing growth planning, including determining housing growth targets for the state and each planning region by December 1, 2026. How is the

office proceeding with implementing this act? Are additional resources or any legislative changes needed?

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