



## QUESTIONS FOR STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION NOMINEES

By: Terrance Adams, Associate Analyst

### STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION (CGS §§ 9-7a TO 9-7c, AS AMENDED BY PA 13-180 § 37)

- 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 top legislative leaders each appoint one member. No more than two may be from 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 can employ individuals necessary to perform its functions.
- The commission is a division within the Office of Government Accountability but has independent decision-making authority.

## QUESTIONS

1. How has your education and previous experience prepared you for this position?
2. SEEC and the Office of the Secretary of the State both play a role in election administration. Are there opportunities for the agencies to collaborate? Do you believe election-related duties and responsibilities are appropriately divided between the agencies?
3. What impact has the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision had on Connecticut elections?
4. [PA 13-180](#) made several changes affecting independent expenditure reporting requirements. How will the commission interpret and apply these requirements for the 2014 election cycle? Do you anticipate issuing additional advisory opinions or declaratory rulings?
5. The 2014 election is the second statewide election under the CEP. How will the program's operation in the 2014 election cycle compare with its operation in the 2010 election cycle?
6. The commission recently adopted Advisory Opinion 2014-01, which addresses activities by state party committees' federal accounts. What are the opinion's key points? Please identify federal account activities that the state can regulate and those that it cannot because of federal preemption.
7. Please discuss the commission's decision in Declaratory Ruling 2013-02 not to enforce contribution limits for political committees that make only independent expenditures (i.e., "Super PACs").
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 result in a sanction?
9. The commission proposed legislation this year to establish a pilot program for municipal campaign finance filings. What are the benefits of establishing such a program? Would it have a fiscal impact on the commission?
10. In what ways, if any, do you believe SEEC's authority should be expanded?

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