



QUESTIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMISSIONER NOMINEE

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COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES (CGS §§ [4A-1](#), [4A-2](#), [4B-1B](#), AND § [5-200](#))

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) commissioner is responsible for establishing personnel policy and personnel administration for state employees; printing laws, stationery, and forms; purchasing and providing supplies, materials and equipment for state agencies; and collecting funds due the state for public assistance.

Concerning state property, the commissioner is responsible for purchasing, selling, leasing, subleasing, and acquiring property and space for state agencies; selling or exchanging surplus state property; and supervising the care and control of, and administering the security for, most state buildings and grounds.

Concerning information technology, the commissioner is responsible for developing and updating an annual information and telecommunications strategic plan; identifying and implementing telecommunications systems to efficiently service state agencies and opportunities for reducing costs associated with these systems; approving state agency acquisition of hardware and software and consultant contracts; leasing, purchasing, and contracting for information system and telecommunications facilities for most state agencies; and processing all state agency telecommunications bills.

Concerning construction services, the commissioner is responsible for administering most state capital improvement, construction, and planning projects; selecting consultants to assist on these projects; providing technical advice and services to state agencies planning to improve their physical space; cooperating with others to develop a capital program and budget for the state; enforcing the state building and fire safety codes; and, in consultation with the education commissioner, overseeing school construction grants.

QUESTIONS

1. As a new commissioner, what have been your early impressions of the department? In what areas is it operating efficiently? In what areas could it improve its efficiency?
2. During the governor's first term, DAS absorbed many additional functions, including construction services, school construction, information technology, and enforcement of the state building and fire safety codes. How has DAS adapted to this increase in responsibility?
3. DAS's respective functions are overseen by four legislative committees (Education, Government Administration and Elections, Labor, and Public Safety). How challenging is it to lead a department with such a wide range of functions? How is the department able to maintain a unified sense of purpose given this wide range?
4. In 2012, the legislature required the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) to conduct a disparity study analyzing the state's set-aside program for small and minority-owned businesses. What are your expectations for the study and what progress has CASE made in conducting it? When is the study expected to be finished?
5. What steps can the state take to improve contracting opportunities for small and minority-owned businesses?
6. What are your thoughts on giving preference to in-state firms when awarding state contracts?
7. DAS administers the school construction grant program in consultation with the State Department of Education. How has the division of duties between the agencies worked in practice? Do you believe that one agency alone should administer the program?
8. In 2014, the previous DAS commissioner chaired a working group that examined construction contracting and bidding transparency. What recommendations did the group make? Is DAS implementing any changes to its bidding and contracting procedures in response to the recommendations?
9. DAS prequalifies contractors seeking state building construction contracts while the Department of Transportation prequalifies contractors seeking state highway and bridge construction contracts. Would it make sense for DAS to take responsibility for all contractor prequalification, including transportation contractors? If so, what efficiencies would the state realize?

10. State agencies possess many records containing sensitive personal information. How secure are the data systems that store this information? Will DAS implement any changes to these systems after the recent Anthem data breach?
11. Some private vendors have access to sensitive personal information through a contract with the state to administer a program (e.g., electronic tax filing). What safeguards does the state require these vendors to implement? Will DAS recommend new safeguards after the Anthem data breach?
12. PA 12-2, June 12 Special Session, allowed state agencies to contract with private and nonprofit entities to facilitate the public's electronic utilization of government programs and services (i.e., e-government). What are the contracts' advantages and disadvantages? Has the state entered into any such contracts?
13. What is DAS's role in state employee personnel administration? How does the department's role compare with that of the Office of Policy and Management?

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