

Questions for the Administrative Services Commissioner Nominee

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Commissioner of Administrative Services (CGS §§ [4a-1](#), [4a-2](#), [4b-1b](#), & [5-200](#))

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

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. Other than funding issues, what do you consider to be the greatest constraints on, and challenges for, DAS? How prepared is the agency to meet these challenges? Given the challenges, what do you consider to be realistic goals for your first year or two as commissioner?
2. What will be your top initiatives and objectives as commissioner? How do you plan to accomplish them?
3. What do you see as the differences and similarities between the public and private sectors? How will you utilize your private sector skills in your new public sector role?
4. Over the course of your career, you have worked with several technology-oriented companies, such as Thermo Fisher Scientific, Core Informatics, and IBM. In his January 25, 2019 [press release](#) announcing your nomination, Governor Lamont said that he will ask you to “take a thorough look at state government in Connecticut and develop efficiencies that improve day-to-day functions and service.” How does your background prepare you for this challenge and what are your initial thoughts on how to go about achieving the governor’s vision?
5. Public Act 18-175 required the Office of Policy and Management secretary to designate a chief data officer (CDO), and for the CDO to create a state data plan in consultation with state agencies. Generally, the state data plan serves as a framework for the state’s executive branch agencies to engage in a consistent approach to data stewardship, use, and access. Do you foresee opportunities for DAS to collaborate with the CDO to enhance standardization and integration of data systems and data management practices across executive branch agencies? Do you foresee other opportunities for collaboration with respect to state data?
6. DAS’s respective functions are overseen by four legislative committees (Education, Government Administration and Elections, Labor, and Public Safety). How challenging will it be to lead a department with such a wide range of functions? How will you help the department maintain a unified sense of purpose given this wide range?

7. What steps can the state take to improve contracting opportunities for small and minority-owned businesses?
8. What are your thoughts on giving preference to in-state firms when awarding state contracts?
9. DAS administers the school construction grant program in consultation with the State Department of Education. Do you believe that one agency alone should administer the program?
10. 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?
11. DAS' collection unit performs revenue-producing services for the state. Two of its functions include collecting money due in public assistance and child support cases. Do you have any thoughts on this function or ideas on how to improve these collections?
12. This session, the Human Services Committee is considering [HB 7031](#), which would require DAS to (1) develop an information and telecommunications plan to provide audio access to government websites and public safety notices for people who are blind or visually impaired and (2) develop within available appropriations, a grant program to assist municipalities with providing similar audio access. What are your thoughts on this proposal?
13. The Government Administration and Elections Committee is considering [HB 6664](#), which would require contractors and substantial subcontractors seeking prequalification from DAS for state or municipal public works contracts to disclose whether they have been cited for any occupational safety and health violation. What are your thoughts on this proposal?

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