

## Questions for the Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Nominee

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### Commissioner of Economic and Community Development ([CGS §§ 32-1b](#) & [32-1c](#))

The commissioner manages the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), which develops and implements the state's community and economic development policies and programs. The commissioner also oversees state efforts to promote arts and tourism and serves, ex officio, as the chair of the board of the quasi-public Connecticut Innovations, Inc. The economic development policies include providing different types of financing and tax incentives to businesses for constructing or expanding facilities, acquiring machinery and equipment, and cleaning up and redeveloping polluted properties. The community development policies include dispersing federal and state dollars to municipalities and nonprofit developers and administering tax credit and grant programs for rehabilitating certified historic structures.

### Questions

1. What motivated you to call Governor Lamont's transition team and seek a career in public service?
2. The governor has proposed a new partnership between DECD and the Connecticut Economic Resource Center (CERC) – the Partnership to Advance the Connecticut of Tomorrow (PACT). What purpose will PACT serve and how will it function? Will PACT perform a function that is not taking place now? Will CERC take over all business recruitment efforts previously performed by DECD?

3. What are the goals and objectives of the state's five-year strategic economic development plan? Do they address the state's major economic challenges? How will the plan inform or guide DECD's decisions?
4. How is DECD marketing the new federal Opportunity Zone program? Are there state incentives and benefits that can be offered in these zones that might increase the state's ability to attract private investment to Connecticut's zones?
5. The Auditors of Public Accounts released a report last year that found that DECD was not reporting accurate data about its economic assistance programs. What steps will you take to ensure that DECD is collecting and reporting accurate and timely data about these programs?
6. Entrepreneurs play a unique role in fostering innovation, starting new businesses, and creating jobs. What role does DECD play in entrepreneurial development? What more can it do to support entrepreneurs and stimulate innovation?
7. How would you rate Connecticut's business climate? What are the factors affecting this climate?
8. What major new technological developments do you foresee that could disrupt the state's economy? Are we prepared for these economic shocks?
9. Does the state do a good job aligning worker training programs with the skills businesses need? Do you think DECD should have a role in this process?
10. How does DECD communicate and coordinate its long-range plans and activities with other state entities that have a role in workforce development such as the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System, the State Department of Education, institutions of higher education, and the Labor Department?
11. How can DECD improve its state marketing strategy to better attract businesses, jobs, and visitors to the state?

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