

## Questions for 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 overseeing school construction grants.

## Questions

1. What will be your top initiatives and objectives as commissioner? How do you plan to accomplish them?
2. From an operational standpoint, what do you believe were the strongest aspects of state government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic? What areas could be improved?
3. The 2022 implementer required DAS to administer a reimbursement grant program for costs related to indoor air quality improvements in school buildings ([PA 22-118](#), § 367). What progress has the department made in establishing this program? When does it plan to announce awards?
4. In September 2022, [the governor announced](#) that \$150 million would be allocated to the indoor air quality grant program. Is this amount sufficient to fund all eligible projects? If not, are there any plans to seek or allocate additional funding?
5. The department recently released an audit of its Office of School Construction Grants Program performed by a private firm. What was the scope of the audit and what were its recommendations? What steps has the department taken in response to these recommendations?
6. What requirements must municipalities follow when awarding contracts for school building projects? Do you believe that any changes to these requirements are necessary? Please explain.
7. In 2021, the legislature passed [PA 21-76](#), which, among other things, revamped the state set-aside program's eligibility requirements by requiring that for-profit entities be registered as a small business with the federal government in order to participate in the program (§§ 8-11). What effect has this change had on the program's operation? What challenges or opportunities has it presented to participating contractors?
8. The 2022 budget revisions provided funding for the State Contracting Standards Board (SCSB) to hire five full-time employees ([PA 22-118](#), §§ 1 & 517). As the state's primary contracting agency, how would you characterize DAS's relationship with SCSB? What role do you see the board playing in state contracting with its additional staff?
9. In March 2021, Boston Consulting Group [submitted the CREATES report](#) to the governor. The report included numerous recommendations for improving government efficiency. What were the report's key recommendations? Has the state implemented any of these recommendations or does it plan to do so? Which ones will the state not implement?
10. FY 22 is often described as having a "wave" of state employee retirements. How many state employees retired in FY 22 and how does this number compare with a typical year?

11. Now that seven months have passed since the end of FY 22, how would you assess state government's efforts to maintain service delivery and counter the loss of institutional knowledge? Do any ongoing challenges remain? Please explain.
12. In recent months, more than two dozen states have banned TikTok on state government computers and mobile devices. Do you believe that Connecticut should implement a similar prohibition? Please explain why or why not.
13. To what extent is state government using emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchain? What opportunities and challenges do these technologies present?
14. [SA 22-14](#) required DAS to submit a report on the development of internship and apprenticeship programs in the building official profession. What were the report's findings and recommendations? Will the department be proposing implementing legislation this session?

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