

CANDIDATES

Candidates for all municipal offices file locally with the Town Clerk. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-603

An **exploratory committee** is a committee formed by a candidate who has not yet decided whether or not to seek a particular public office so that he or she can “test the waters.” Such committees are established by a candidate for a single primary or election. An exploratory committee must be tied to a specific election and the candidate may only form one exploratory committee per election cycle.

Registration of an exploratory committee is accomplished by filing an Exploratory Committee Registration ([SEEC Form 4](#)) with the Town Clerk. The registration statement must designate the name and address of the committee treasurer, deputy treasurer (if any), the depository institution of the committee’s checking account, and the date of the election. Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-601(5), 9-604(c), 9-608(f); Declaratory Ruling 2007-02; Declaratory Ruling 2009-01

A **candidate committee** means any committee designated by a single candidate, or established with the consent, authorization or cooperation of a candidate. The purpose of a candidate committee is to aid and promote the individual's candidacy for a particular public office.

Any candidate for office is required to file their Candidate Committee registration ([SEEC Form 1](#)) within 10 days of becoming a candidate. An individual is deemed to have become a candidate when he or she: (1) has solicited or received funds or other resources (personally, or through another person), or made expenditures, including expenditures from personal funds, for the purpose of bringing about such individual’s nomination or election to any office; (2) has been endorsed or nominated by a political party and is thus entitled to a position on the ballot at an election or primary; or (3) is otherwise qualified for placement on the ballot pursuant to the election laws. The individual must register within 10 days of the earliest of these occurrences. Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-601(11) and 9-604

All candidates must complete page 1 of the SEEC Form 1. A candidate registers a candidate committee by completing pages 2 and 3 — appointing a treasurer, deputy treasurer (optional) and selecting a depository institution in Connecticut ([SEEC Form 1A](#)).

If the candidate has instead determined that their candidacy fits one of the exemptions from forming a candidate committee as outlined on page 4 ([SEEC Form 1B](#)) of the form, they should check one (*and only one*) of the boxes on page 4 and sign the form. The submission of the 1B means that that individual is not required to file financial statements. The only exception to this is if the candidate checks the box 11b of SEEC Form 1B and expends over \$1,000 from personal funds, in which case he is required to file financial statements ([SEEC Form 23](#)).

CONNECTICUT STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
20 Trinity Street Hartford, CT 06106-1628



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CONTACTING THE STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

Questions from Town/City Clerks:

Contact Nancy Staniewicz, Elections Officer
860-256-2940
nancy.staniewicz@ct.gov

Questions from municipal candidates, municipal slate committees or town committees:

Contact Paige Adams, Andrew Cascudo or Lisa Zaccagnino, Elections Officers
860-256-2985
public.finance@ct.gov

FORMS

Candidate Committee Registration	SEEC Form 1, 1A, 1B
	Instructions
Political (Slate) Committee Registration	SEEC Form 3
	Instructions
Exploratory Committee Registration	SEEC Form 4
	Instructions
Financial Statement (over \$1,000)	SEEC Form 20
	Instructions
Financial Statement (\$1,000 or less)	SEEC Form 21
	Instructions
Self Funded Candidate Expenditure Statement	SEEC Form 23
	Instructions