



The Digest of Administrative Reports to the Governor Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Agency: Office of State Ethics

Executive Director: Peter J. Lewandowski

Established: July 1, 2005

Statutory authority: Chapter 10, Connecticut General Statutes, Section 1-79 *et seq.*

Central office: 165 Capitol Avenue, 1st Floor, Hartford CT 06106

Number of full-time employees: 16

Recurring operating expenses: \$ 2,030,223 for Fiscal Year 2025

Organizational structure: The Office of State Ethics (“OSE”) is headed by the 9-member Citizen’s Ethics Advisory Board (“CEAB”) and Executive Director and is comprised of three units: Legal Division, Enforcement Division, and Administrative Division.

Citizen’s Ethics Advisory Board Members:

N. Beth Cook (Chair), term ending September 30, 2026

Charles Chiusano (Vice Chair), term ending September 30, 2029

Mary Bigelow, term ending September 30, 2025

Karess Cannon, term ending September 30, 2027

Dena Castricone, term ending September 30, 2026

Meaghan Mary Cooper, term ending September 30, 2027

Kenneth Greenberg, term ending September 30, 2028

Cheryl Lipson, term ending September 30, 2027

Laura A. Schuyler, term ending September 30, 2028

Mission: The OSE practices and promotes the highest ethical standards and accountability in state government by providing education and legal advice, ensuring disclosure, and impartially enforcing the Codes of Ethics.

Statutory Responsibility: The OSE administers Connecticut General Statutes, Chapter 10, Part I for Public Officials, Part II for Lobbyists, and Part IV, Ethical Considerations Concerning Bidding and State Contracts.

The statutory responsibilities of the OSE are broken down into four main categories: **education, interpretation, enforcement, and disclosure**. The OSE is charged with providing education, guidance, and advice to state employees, public officials, lobbyists, and state contractors on the Codes of Ethics. The CEAB is responsible for adjudicating cases brought under the Codes of Ethics and making findings of violations, as well as issuing advisory opinions – interpretations of the Codes as they apply to specific situations. All investigation and prosecution matters are the responsibility of the Ethics Enforcement Officer. The OSE is also statutorily obligated to administer all lobbyist financial reports along with Statements of Financial Interests (“SFIs”) filed by designated public officials and state employees.

Public Service

The OSE is committed to carrying out its mission in the most user-friendly and transparent manner possible. The following functions of the office are frequently utilized by members of the public and the media for information and research.

- **Statements of Financial Interests:** The OSE hosts the [database and web program](#) for designated public officials and state employees to complete their financial disclosures. This system promotes a thoughtful culture of transparency and maximizes public confidence in governmental decision-making by asking these state officials to share their outside holdings annually, as a tool to showcase an absence of conflicts of interests.
- **Lobbyist Filing System:** Those paying or being paid \$3000 or more to lobby Connecticut government are required to [register and file periodic financial disclosures](#) with the OSE. This system has a [public-facing search tool](#), so anyone can see the lobbyist status of the people with whom they are doing business.
- **Advisory Opinions and Declaratory Rulings:** All OSE formal advisory opinions are posted on the website from 1978 through the present. These documents are indexed by [year](#) and by [topic](#) and include a [concise summary](#) for easy public consumption. Additionally, all OSE declaratory rulings are posted on the website from 1978 through the present and include the [summaries](#) and [topics](#).
- **Enforcement Actions:** All final decisions for OSE enforcement actions are [posted to the website](#) with a link to the official document and a brief summary from 1979 through the present.
- **CEAB Official Meeting documents:** The agendas and minutes for all CEAB meetings and subcommittee meetings are posted to the website from 2020 through the present.

In addition to serving the public, the OSE is committed to serving its regulated communities: State Employees/Officials, Lobbyists and Contractors. Trainings, newsletters and reminder emails are shared regularly to communicate clear expectations, guidance and support.

Improvements/Achievements for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 was a busy year for the Office of State Ethics! Staff from all three units made process improvements that produced both qualitative and quantitative improvements for the agency and those we serve.

Education & Communications: Expanding Access, Driving Compliance

- OSE delivered a **record-setting 66 Code of Ethics live trainings**, each **customized to agency-specific needs**. With **self-paced online modules, in-person sessions, virtual options, and hybrid formats**, OSE made ethics education **more accessible than ever**, ensuring statewide compliance and empowering employees to integrate ethical practices into daily work.
- To complement live trainings, OSE launched a suite of **visually engaging infographics and one-page quick-reference guides**, transforming complex ethics rules into **clear, actionable resources** for public officials, employees, lobbyists, and contractors.

- OSE continued their quarterly newsletter for lobbyists, supplementing monthly communications to ethics liaisons and compliance officers, creating **consistent engagement and a culture of integrity** across regulated communities.
- Proactive communication efforts, including **timely press releases and electronic alerts** on Advisory Board Opinions, Declaratory Rulings, and enforcement actions, established OSE as a **trusted and transparent resource** for the media and the public.

Transparency & Oversight: Setting New Standards for Compliance

- On May 1, 2025, **99% of required filers** submitted their **2024 Statements of Financial Interests (SFIs) on time and electronically**. The OSE processed **2,997 filings**, with **94 agencies achieving 100% compliance—23 more agencies than last year**—showcasing exceptional accountability across state government.
- OSE processed **thousands of lobbyist financial reports** through its electronic system and oversaw **2,350 biennial lobbyist registrations**, generating **\$938,500 in fees** in FY 24-25, and the first year of the registration biennium, deposited directly into Connecticut’s General Fund.
- The agency completed and CEAB approved **49 lobbyist audits**, marking a **32% increase over the prior year** and reinforcing OSE’s **commitment to rigorous oversight and financial transparency**.
- OSE processed **35 Freedom of Information requests**, maintaining a **transparent and responsive approach** to public engagement.

Advisory Guidance: Delivering Expertise and Clarity

- The CEAB, with Legal Division support, issued **three formal Advisory Opinions** to provide **authoritative interpretations** of the Code of Ethics. Summaries and the full text of all opinions and rulings are available on the OSE’s website (ct.gov/ethics).
- OSE attorneys provided **501 instances of guidance** this fiscal year, including **358 written opinions** and **143 personalized consultations**, ensuring regulated individuals and entities receive **timely, practical advice** to remain compliant.

Enforcement & Accountability: Strengthening Public Trust

- The Enforcement Division opened **76 confidential investigations**, a **nearly 90% increase over last year**, signaling **heightened vigilance and commitment to accountability**.
- In total, **91 enforcement matters** were initiated for filing violations, with **57 cases publicly resolved** and **\$7,590 in penalties collected** and deposited into the General Fund.

Conclusion

The OSE promotes integrity in government by providing advice, guidance, and education to public officials, state employees, and lobbyists; by sensibly interpreting and, when necessary, fairly and impartially enforcing the applicable laws; by administering the lobbyist and financial disclosure filing systems; and by providing the public with access to certain public information. The CEAB and the OSE staff will continue to strive for innovation and progress that will result in cost savings and efficiency. Through transparency and access, the OSE will lead by example to promote an environment of public trust and open government in Connecticut.