



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
**RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION**  
40 Fountain Street  
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## **NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING**

### **AGENDA**

#### **9<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

**DATE:** Tuesday, June 10, 2025

**TIME:** 9:00 a.m.

**PLACE:** Rhode Island Ethics Commission  
Hearing Room - 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
40 Fountain Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**LIVESTREAM:** The Open Session portions of this meeting will be livestreamed at:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84549764937>

1. Call to Order.
2. Motion to approve minutes of Open Session held on May 20, 2025.
3. Director's Report: Status report and updates regarding:
  - a.) Complaints and investigations pending;
  - b.) Advisory opinions pending;
  - c.) Access to Public Records Act requests since last meeting;
  - d.) Financial disclosure;
  - e.) General office administration; and
  - f.) Legislative Update: Discussion of 2025 House Bill 6166.

4. Advisory Opinions:

- a.) The Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, a legislator serving as a member of the Rhode Island Senate, who in her private capacity is the president of the National Education Association of Rhode Island (NEARI), a non-profit labor organization, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether, under the Code of Ethics, her recent election to the position of Senate President creates a conflict of interest, per se, given her private position as NEARI president, prohibiting her from simultaneously serving in both positions. [Staff Attorney Papa]
- b.) Lawrence Mandel, a former member of the North Kingstown Town Council, requests an advisory opinion regarding whether he may apply for and, if offered, accept an appointment to serve as a member of the North Kingstown Planning Commission, an unpaid municipal position, prior to the expiration of one year following the Petitioner's severance from his position as a town council member. [Staff Attorney Radiches]
- c.) Status Conference In re: James E. Thorsen, Complaint No. 2023-7. [Director Gramitt]
- d.) Discussion of rulemaking timeline: Amending the Code of Ethics' Gift Rule at 520-RICR-00-00-1.4.2 to expressly include registered lobbyists within the definition of "interested person," and to raise the maximum allowable gift values to be more consistent with changes to the consumer price index since 2005. [Director Gramitt]

5. Motion to go into Executive Session, to wit:

- a.) Motion to approve minutes of Executive Session held on May 20, 2025, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) & (4).
- b.) Annual discussion and review re: Legal Counsel's contract pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1).
- c.) Motion to return to Open Session.

6. Motion to seal minutes of Executive Session held on June 10, 2025

7. Report on actions taken in Executive Session.

8. Annual Discussion and potential vote re: Legal Counsel's contract.

9. New Business proposed for future Commission agendas and general comments from the Commission.

10. Motion to adjourn.

ANYONE WISHING TO ATTEND THIS MEETING WHO MAY HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS FOR ACCESS OR SERVICES SUCH AS A SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER, PLEASE CONTACT THE COMMISSION BY TELEPHONE AT 222-3790, 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE SCHEDULED MEETING. THE COMMISSION ALSO MAY BE CONTACTED THROUGH RHODE ISLAND RELAY, A TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SERVICE, AT 1-800-RI5-5555.

*Posted on June 5, 2025*