

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 COUNTY OF RICHLAND )  
 )  
 IN THE MATTER OF: )  
 COMPLAINT C2011-074 )  
 )  
 State Ethics Commission, )  
 Complainant; )  
 )  
 vs. )  
 )  
 Peter G. Skidmore, )  
 Respondent. )  
 \_\_\_\_\_ )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**DECISION AND ORDER**

STATE ETHICS  
 COMMISSION

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This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission by virtue of a complaint filed by the State Ethics Commission on April 22, 2011. On July 20, 2011, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §8-13-320(10)(i)(Supp. 2010), the State Ethics Commission reviewed the above-captioned complaint charging Respondent, Peter G. Skidmore, with nine violations of Section 8-13-1308(B) and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing.

Present at the Hearing on March 20, 2013 were Commission Members E. Kay Biermann Brohl, Chair, Priscilla Tanner and George Carlton Manley. Respondent was present and appeared *pro se*. Complainant was represented by Cathy L. Hazelwood, General Counsel. The following charges were considered:

**COUNT ONE**  
**FAILURE TO FILE A QUARTERLY CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That the Respondent, Peter G. Skidmore, a candidate for York County Coroner in an election on November 4, 2008, on or about January 10, 2009, did fail to timely file a quarterly Campaign Disclosure Report within ten days of the end of the calendar quarter.

**COUNT TWO**

**FAILURE TO FILE A QUARTERLY CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT  
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That the Respondent, Peter G. Skidmore, a candidate for York County Coroner in an election on November 4, 2008, on or about April 10, 2009, did fail to timely file a quarterly Campaign Disclosure Report within ten days of the end of the calendar quarter.

**COUNT THREE**

**FAILURE TO FILE A QUARTERLY CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT  
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That the That the Respondent, Peter G. Skidmore, a candidate for York County Coroner in an election on November 4, 2008, on or about July 10, 2009, did fail to timely file a quarterly Campaign Disclosure Report within ten days of the end of the calendar quarter.

**COUNT FOUR**

**FAILURE TO FILE A QUARTERLY CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT  
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That the Respondent, Peter G. Skidmore, a candidate for York County Coroner in an election on November 4, 2008, on or about October 10, 2009, did fail to timely file a quarterly Campaign Disclosure Report within ten days of the end of the calendar quarter.

**COUNT FIVE**

**FAILURE TO FILE A QUARTERLY CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT  
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That the Respondent, Peter G. Skidmore, a candidate for York County Coroner in an election on November 4, 2008, on or about January 10, 2010, did fail to timely file a quarterly Campaign Disclosure Report within ten days of the end of the calendar quarter.

**COUNT SIX**

**FAILURE TO FILE A QUARTERLY CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT  
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That the Respondent, Peter G. Skidmore, a candidate for York County Coroner

ner in an election on November 4, 2008, on or about April 10, 2010, did fail to timely file a quarterly Campaign Disclosure Report within ten days of the end of the calendar quarter.

**COUNT SEVEN**  
**FAILURE TO FILE A QUARTERLY CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That the Respondent, Peter G. Skidmore, a candidate for York County Coroner in an election on November 4, 2008, on or about July 10, 2010, did fail to timely file a quarterly Campaign Disclosure Report within ten days of the end of the calendar quarter.

**COUNT EIGHT**  
**FAILURE TO FILE A QUARTERLY CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That the Respondent, Peter G. Skidmore, a candidate for York County Coroner in an election on November 4, 2008, on or about October 10, 2010, did fail to timely file a quarterly Campaign Disclosure Report within ten days of the end of the calendar quarter.

**COUNT NINE**  
**FAILURE TO FILE A QUARTERLY CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That the Respondent, Peter G. Skidmore, a candidate for York County Coroner in an election on November 4, 2008, on or about January 10, 2011, did fail to timely file a quarterly Campaign Disclosure Report within ten days of the end of the calendar quarter.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

1. The Respondent, Peter G. Skidmore, was a candidate for York County Coroner in a November 4, 2008 election and he was required to continue to file quarterly campaign disclosure forms (CD) until final disposition.

2. Kristin Smith, administrative coordinator of the Commission's non-

compliance office, testified that Respondent filed an October 10, 2008 quarterly CD. This report showed a balance in the campaign account of \$1,005.33. By letter dated January 31, 2011, Respondent was advised that quarterly CDs that were due on January 10, April 10, July 10, October 10, 2009; January 10, April 10, July 10, October 10, 2010 and January 10, 2011 had not been received and late filing penalties were being levied. A notation in the file indicated that a staff person returned a telephone call to Respondent's wife on March 1, 2011. She explained that a copy of the last bank statement was needed to show the date the account had been closed. By certified letter dated March 18, 2011, Respondent was reminded that his quarterly CDs had not been received. By letter dated April 27, 2011, Respondent was advised that a complaint had been filed against him. On April 28, 2011 Respondent's wife contacted staff and stated she was getting the necessary documents together to be in compliance. On May 18, 2011 Respondent filed the required forms. Outstanding penalties have accrued to \$36,900.00.

3. Respondent testified that he knew nothing about the remaining forms being due and past due. He did not know that a complaint had been filed against him or that a previous hearing had been held. Respondent's wife signed for all correspondence and kept the information from Respondent. Respondent submitted his wife's affidavit, which confirmed his testimony.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Based upon the Findings of Fact, the Commission concludes, as a matter of law:

1. During all times relevant, the Respondent, Peter G. Skidmore, was a candidate as defined by Section 8-13-1300(4).

2. The State Ethics Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction
3. Section 8-13-1308(B) provides:

Following the filing of an initial certified campaign report, additional certified campaign reports must be filed within ten days following the end of each calendar quarter in which contributions are received or expenditures are made, whether before or after an election until the campaign account undergoes final disbursement pursuant to the provisions of Section 8-13-1370.

4. Section 8-13-1510(1) provides as follows:

Except as otherwise specifically provided in this chapter, a person required to file a report or statement under this chapter who files a late statement or report or fails to file a required statement or report must be assessed a civil penalty as follows:

(1) a fine of one hundred dollars if not filed within five days after the established deadline provided by law in this chapter;

### **DECISION**

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the State Ethics Commission has determined based upon a preponderance of evidence that Respondent Peter G. Skidmore is in violation of Section 8-13-1308; and therefore, Respondent Peter G. Skidmore is hereby assessed a reduced late-filing penalty of \$100.00 to be paid within 30 days of receipt of the order or it will revert to \$500.00.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to Section 8-13-320, a Judgment in the amount of \$500.00 is, and shall be entered against Respondent, if he fails to pay the reduced late-filing penalty within the time permitted.

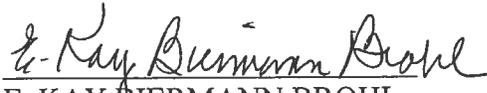
IT IS FURTHER THE ORDER OF THIS COMMISSION that the Clerk of Court of the County in which Respondent was last known to reside shall enter this Order in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the State Ethics Commission, in the amount of \$500.00

upon the Commission's filing of same with the Clerk of Court's Office.

FINALLY, Respondent Peter G. Skidmore has ten (10) days from receipt of this order to appeal this Decision and Order to the full Commission.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF May, 2013.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



E. KAY BIERMANN BROHL  
HEARING CHAIR

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA