

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2014-098)

Michael A. Wilson,)
Respondent.)

DECISION AND ORDER

Krista Thom,)
Complainant.)

STATE ETHICS
COMMISSION

2014 DEC 29 PM 4: 17

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Pursuant to S. C. Code Ann. § 8-13-320(10)(i)(Supp. 2014), the State Ethics Commission reviewed the above captioned complaint on November 19, 2014 charging the Respondent, Michael A. Wilson, with violation a of Section 8-13-1302(A)(6). Present at the meeting were Commission Members James I. Warren, III, Chair, Sandy Templeton, Frank Grimball, Julie S. Jeffords-Moose, Twana N. Burris-Alcide, Regina H. Lewis, and Sherri A. Lydon. Thomas M. Galardi recused. The following allegation was considered:

ALLEGATION

On March 11, 2014 the State Ethics Commission received a complaint filed by Krista Thom of Kansasville, WI against Attorney General Michael A Wilson. The complaint alleged that during the 2010 Primary, 2010 Primary Runoff, 2010 General and 2014 Primary election cycles, the Respondent failed to disclose the occupation of 162 contributors.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Having carefully reviewed the evidence presented, the Commission finds as fact:

1. The Respondent, Michael A. Wilson, is and at all times relevant was the South Carolina Attorney General. He was re-elected in November 2014.

2. Complainant alleged that Respondent failed to disclose the information related to the occupation of 162 contributors. Staff reviewed Respondent's Campaign Disclosure forms (CD) filed between April 15, 2011, and January 10, 2014. Staff noted that Respondent's CD documented the occupation of every contributor filed in the complaint.

3. Respondent provided staff with records that documented the occupation of the 162 contributors that were named in the complaint. Staff reviewed the records and noted that Respondent did maintain an account of the occupation of each contributor.

4. On March 21, 2014, and March 27, 2014 staff left a voice mail messages for Complainant in order to obtain the bases of the complaint or any additional information. On April 2, 2014 staff received an e-mail from Complainant that acknowledged that she received the messages. The e-mail stated that she thought that the best course of action was to refer questions and other inquires to legal counsel. Complainant reported that in the next couple of days she would provide her counsel's contact information or they would contact staff.

5. Neither Complainant nor her attorney provided additional information as requested.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Respondent was a candidate, as defined by Section 8-13-1300(4).
2. The State Ethics Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.



3. Section 8-13-1302(A)(6) provides that a candidate must maintain a record of the occupation of all contributors

DECISION

THEREFORE, based upon evidence presented, the State Ethics Commission has determined that there is not probable cause to indicate that the Respondent, Michael A. Wilson, violated Section 8-13-1302(A)(6). Further the complaint is dismissed due to the Complainant, Krista Thom's, failure to cooperate at all in the investigation, which gives rise to the belief that she did not have personal knowledge of the allegations in the complaint. The Commission has therefore dismissed the charges in accordance with Section 8-13-320(10)(i), and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 24th DAY OF December, 2014.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



JAMES I. WARREN, III
CHAIRMAN

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

