

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:

CASE NUMBER

C 2025-065

COMPLAINT FORM

COMPLAINANT: State Ethics Commission
ADDRESS: 201 Executive Center Drive
Suite 150
Columbia, SC 29210
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (803) 253-4192

RESPONDENT: Perietta K. Hightower
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: Aiken County Council Member

Section 8-13-1120, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires disclosure of the source, type, and amount of income from a governmental entity and a listing of the private source and type of any income received by the filer or a member of the filer's immediate family during the reporting period. Respondent failed to report personal private income and family member government income on the 2023 Statement of Economic Interests.

Section 8-13-1140, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires the filing of an updated Statement of Economic Interests for the previous calendar year annually thereafter prior to March 30. Records in the State Ethics Commission indicate that the Respondent was required to file the 2024 and 2025 Statement of Economic Interests.

Section 8-13-1308, S.C. Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires candidates to file Campaign Disclosures within ten (10) days of receiving or expending an accumulated aggregate of \$500.00 or more; fifteen (15) days prior to each election; within ten (10) days of the end of each quarter; and a final report when the campaign account is closed. In addition, certified campaign reports detailing campaign contributions and expenditures must contain the total of contributions accepted, the name and address of each person making a contribution, the total expenditures made by or on behalf of the candidate or committee, and the name and address of each person to whom an expenditure is made from campaign funds. Pursuant to Section 8-13-1362 and Regulation 52-504 (C), the Pre-Election and quarterly report are required even when there have been no contributions or expenditures. Records of the State Ethics Commission indicate that Respondent failed to report the \$537.60 filing fee expenditure paid on March 16, 2024 on the Quarter 1 2024 Campaign Disclosure, a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure was due between September 27, 2023 and October 2, 2023 for the October 17, 2023 election, a Quarter 3 2024 and Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure was due between October 16, 2024 and October 21, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 election, and quarterly Campaign Disclosures were due no later than January 10, 2025 and April 10, 2025. Respondent was sent an email reminder thirty days before and ten days before each quarterly Campaign Disclosure deadline.

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Respondent was reminded of the income requirement by letters dated July 20, 2023, November 15, 2023, and April 2, 2025 and was reminded of the filing requirements by a certified letter dated April 2, 2025 as described in the attached. To date, a properly completed 2023 Statement of Economic Interests, 2024 Statement of Economic Interests, 2025 Statement of Economic Interests, Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure for the October 17, 2023 election, amended Quarter 1 2024 Campaign Disclosure, Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure for the November 5, 2024 election, Quarter 4 2024 Campaign Disclosure, and Quarter 1 2025 Campaign Disclosure have not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1120, Section 8-13-1140, Section 8-13-1308(A), Section 8-13-1308 (B), Section 8-13-1308(D)(1), and Section 8-13-1308 (F), S.C. Code Ann., 1976, as amended.

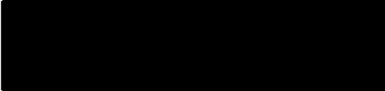
If there is a finding of probable cause, the following documents become public record: the complaint, the response (if any) by respondent, and the notice of hearing. If a hearing is to be held, the final order and all exhibits become public record. If no hearing is held following a finding of probable cause, the final disposition of the matter becomes public record.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF Richland

Personally appeared before me Meghan Walker Dayson who, first being duly sworn, says that she has read and knows the contents of the above complaint and that the allegations contained therein, are true and correct to the best of her own knowledge, except for those matters therein based upon information and belief, and as to those she believes them to be true.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
9th day of July, 2025


Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director


Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission expires 8/12/26

SEC-7 (Revised 3/2022)

REPLY TO: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210 (803)253-4192
ELECTRONIC COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
Complaint C2025-065)
State Ethics Commission)
Complainant.)
Perjetta K. Hightower)
Respondent.)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

NOTICE OF HEARING

The State Ethics Commission has determined that there is probable cause pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, in the above-captioned complaint. The Commission will convene a formal hearing into the matter in accordance with Section 8-13-320(10)(i) & (j), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, and State Ethics Commission Regulations, S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-707 (1997 Cum. Supp.) on Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the Commission Hearing Room located at: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

The following allegations will be heard:

COUNT ONE

**FAILURE TO FILE A PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(D)(1), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Perjetta K. Hightower, candidate for Aiken County Council, failed to timely file a 2023 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report prior to the August 15, 2023 primary election, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1).

COUNT TWO

**FAILURE TO FILE A PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(D)(1), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Perjetta K. Hightower, candidate for Aiken County Council, failed to timely file a

2023 Q3/Pre- Election Campaign Disclosure Report prior to the October 17, 2023 special election, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1).

COUNT THREE
FAILURE TO FILE A PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(D)(1), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Perjetta K. Hightower, candidate for Aiken County Council, failed to timely file a 2024 Q3/Pre- Election Campaign Disclosure Report prior to the November 5, 2024 general election, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1).

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

That Perjetta K. Hightower, Councilwoman for Aiken County, failed to file a Quarter 2 2023 Campaign Disclosure Report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Perjetta K. Hightower, Councilwoman for Aiken County, failed to file a Quarter 1 2024 Campaign Disclosure Report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Perjetta K. Hightower, Councilwoman for Aiken County, failed to file a Quarter 2 2024 Campaign Disclosure Report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Perjetta K. Hightower, Councilwoman for Aiken County, failed to file a Quarter 4 2024 Campaign Disclosure Report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Perjetta K. Hightower, Councilwoman for Aiken County, failed to file a Quarter 1 2025 Campaign Disclosure Report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Perjetta K. Hightower, Councilwoman for Aiken County, failed to file a Quarter 2 2025 Campaign Disclosure Report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Perjetta K. Hightower, Councilwoman for Aiken County, failed to file a Quarter 3/ Final 2025 Campaign Disclosure Report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT ELEVEN
FAILURE TO USE CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Perjetta K. Hightower, candidate for Aiken County Council, failed to timely deposit the following campaign contributions: Gisle G. Bryant \$200.00, dated July 26, 2023; Richard Johnson Jr., \$200.00, dated July 11, 2023; Louisiana Sanders \$100.00, dated September 26, 2023; Marsha F. Harris \$25.00, dated September 27, 2023; and Shannon Mathews \$500.00, dated October 23, 2023, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT TWELVE
FAILURE TO USE CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Perjetta K. Hightower, candidate for Aiken County Council, failed to make the following campaign expenditures through her campaign account: Election Commission, \$64.00,

dated May 16, 2023; Patterson – Yard Signs, \$235.00, dated August 1, 2023; Aiken Standard – Advertisements, \$1,012.50, dated August 4, 2023; Howell Printing – Flyers, \$270.00, dated August 3, 2023; Patterson – Signs, \$235.00, dated August 3, 2023; UPH Ward Promotions – Commercial, \$425.00, dated August 3, 2023; Howell Printing – Campaign Cards, \$172.80, dated August 9, 2023; Aiken County Government – Maps, \$69.00, dated August 9, 2023; Howell Printing, \$297.00, dated September 18, 2023; Messenger Constant, \$2,000.00, dated September 19, 2023; Messenger Constant, \$1,865.06, dated September 21, 2023; Point Blank Politica Florida, \$550.00, dated September 28, 2023; TCC Trucking & Logistics, \$1,000.00, dated October 17, 2023; TCC Trucking & Logistics – Canvassing, \$3,000.00, dated October 4, 2023; TCC Trucking & Logistics – Political Calls, \$2,500.00, dated October 6, 2023; Aiken Standard – Thank You Advertisement, \$675.00, dated November 3, 2023; South Carolina Democratic Party, District 8 – Filing Fee, \$537.60, dated March 16, 2024; Howell Printing Company, \$151.20, dated August 27, 2024; Pens.com, \$820.91, dated October 12, 2024; Evening Post Publishing, \$799.00, dated October 14, 2024; Evening Post Publishing, \$1,400.00, dated October 15, 2024; Messenger Constant, \$3,500.00, dated October 21, 2024; Messenger Constant, \$987.04, dated October 23, 2024; Howell Printing, \$372.60, dated November 1, 2024; UPH Ward Promotions, \$450.00, dated November 1, 2024; Christopher Emanuel, \$762.08, dated November 2, 2024; and The Leader, \$500.00, dated November 5, 2024, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT THIRTEEN
FAILURE TO FILE STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS
SECTION 8-13-1140, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Perjeta K. Hightower, Aiken County Councilwoman, failed to file a Statement of Economic Interests on or before March 30, 2024, in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

COUNT FOURTEEN
FAILURE TO FILE STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS
SECTION 8-13-1140, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Perjeta K. Hightower, Councilwoman for Aiken County, failed to file a Statement of Economic Interests on or before March 30, 2025, in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

COUNT FIFTEEN
FAILURE TO FILE STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS
SECTION 8-13-1140, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Perjeta K. Hightower, Councilwoman for Aiken County, failed to file a Statement of Economic Interests on or before March 30, 2026, in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

COUNT SIXTEEN
FAILURE TO MAINTAIN RECORDS
SECTION 8-13-1302, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Perjeta K. Hightower, candidate for Aiken County Council, failed to maintain campaign records related to campaign contributions and expenditures, in violation of Section 8-13-1302.

You have the right to be represented by counsel, the right to call and examine witnesses, the right to introduce exhibits, and the right to cross-examine opposing witnesses. This hearing will be open to the public as required by Section 8-13-320(10)(j), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended. The procedures to be followed are set forth in the Administrative Procedures Act, Section 1-23-10, et seq., Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, the State Ethics Act, Section 8-13-100, et seq., Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, and State Ethics Commission Regulations, S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-707 (1997 Cum. Supp.).

A pre-hearing conference may be scheduled prior to the hearing to allow exchange of witness lists and evidence, marking of exhibits, and disposition of motions or pleadings. In the event you fail to appear, judgment by default will be rendered against you. If there are any

questions concerning the above notice or hearing times, please contact the State Ethics Commission.



Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director
State Ethics Commission

Dated this 16th day,
of July 2026

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on RESPONDENT Perjetta K. Hightower, 1051 Scarborough Pass, Aiken, SC 29801 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 17 day of July 2026, by CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.



Maquita S. Kessler, Paralegal
State Ethics Commission

Columbia, South Carolina

(803) 253-4192