

RECEIVED

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

2022 JAN 11 PM 1:43

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:
CASE NUMBER
C 2022-006

STATE ETHICS
COMMISSION

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Brian E. Taylor
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: Candidate – Atlantic Beach Mayor

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 \$500; 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 an Initial Campaign Disclosure was due within ten days of receipt or expenditure of \$500.00, a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure was due between October 16, 2019 and October 21, 2019, and quarterly Campaign Disclosures were due no later than January 10, 2020, April 10, 2020, July 10, 2020, October 10, 2020, January 10, 2021, April 10, 2021, July 10, 2021, October 10, 2021, and January 10, 2022. Respondent was sent an email reminder thirty days before the Pre-Election and quarterly Campaign Disclosure deadlines.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by letters dated January 31, 2020 and February 21, 2021 as described in the attached. To date, no properly completed Initial, Pre-Election, January 10, 2020, April 10, 2020, July 10, 2020, October 10, 2020, January 10, 2021, April 10, 2021, July 10, 2021, October 10, 2021, or January 10, 2022 Campaign Disclosure has been received. All in violation of 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.

All investigations, inquiries, hearings, and accompanying documents must remain confidential unless respondent waives the right to confidentiality. 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. The willful release of confidential information is a misdemeanor, and any person releasing such confidential information, upon conviction, must be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or imprisoned not more than one year. Section 8-13-320(10)(g).

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF Richland

Personally appeared before me Meghan L. Walker 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 11th day of January 2022

[REDACTED]
Meghan L Walker, Executive Director

[REDACTED]
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission expires 01/22/26

SEC-7 (Revised 8/2019)

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

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND) BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
))
IN THE MATTER OF:))
))
Complaint C2022-006))
))
State Ethics Commission) **NOTICE OF HEARING**
Complainant.))
))
Brian E. Taylor))
Respondent.))
_____)

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, April 18, 2024 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 AN INITIAL CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(A), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Brian E. Taylor, candidate for Mayor of Atlantic Beach, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2019 Initial Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR), in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A).

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 Brian E. Taylor, candidate for Mayor of Atlantic Beach, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2019 Pre-Election/Quarter 3 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1).

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

That Brian E. Taylor, candidate for Mayor of Atlantic Beach, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2019 Quarter 4 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Brian E. Taylor, candidate for Mayor of Atlantic Beach, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2020 Quarter 1/Final CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT FIVE
EXCESSIVE CASH WITHDRAWAL
SECTION 8-13-1348, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Brian E. Taylor, candidate for Mayor of Atlantic Beach, did in Richland County, withdraw more than \$100.00 in cash from his campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1348.

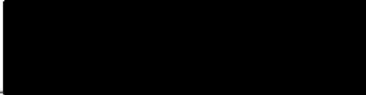
COUNT SIX
FAILURE TO MAINTAIN CAMPAIGN RECORDS
SECTION 8-13-1302, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Brian E. Taylor, candidate for Mayor of Atlantic Beach, did in Richland County, fail to maintain records of 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 24th day,
of January 2024.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Brian E. Taylor, P.O. Box 2304, North Myrtle Beach, SC 29598 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 21st day of January 2024, by CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.



Rachael O'Bryan, Administrative Assistant

State Ethics Commission

(803) 253-4192

Columbia, South Carolina

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2022-006)
)
State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant.)
)
Brian E. Taylor,)
Respondent.)
_____)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

DECISION AND ORDER

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a complaint filed on January 11, 2022. Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act of 1991 (Ethics Act), the Commission reviewed the above-captioned complaint against Brian E. Taylor (Respondent) and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing. Present at the hearing on April 18, 2024, were Commissioners Scott E. Frick, AJ Holloway, and F. Xavier Starkes, Hearing Chair. Respondent was duly noticed but failed to appear. The Commission was represented by Renique Brabham, Esq. The following charges were considered: one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1308(A) for failing to file a 2019 Initial Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR); one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1308(D)(1) for failing to file a Quarter 3 2019/Pre-Election CDR; two (2) counts of violating Section 8-13-1308(B) for failing to file Quarter 4 2019 and Quarter 1 2020/Final CDRs; and one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1348 for making a cash withdrawal over \$100.00.¹

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. Respondent was a candidate for Mayor of Town of Atlantic Beach in a November 5, 2019 election.
2. On October 30, 2019, Respondent contacted Commission staff for assistance with filing his

¹The Commission also found probable cause to believe Respondent violated Section 8-13-1302 by failing to maintain campaign records. However, there is insufficient evidence to find Respondent failed to maintain his campaign records pursuant to Section 8-13-1302. Therefore, the Commission declines to proceed on this charge.

required reports. Respondent revealed to staff that he had received over \$500.00 in contributions in early September but stated he did not have addresses or occupations for each contributor. Respondent stated he would call back when he had all required information.

3. At no point did Respondent file an Initial CDR.
4. Respondent failed to file a Pre-Election CDR prior to the November 5, 2019 election.
5. In a January 31, 2020 penalty letter sent via first-class mail, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to file an Initial CDR, a 2019 Pre-Election CDR, and a Quarter 4 2019 CDR.
6. In a February 23, 2021 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to timely file the Initial CDR, 2019 Pre-Election CDR, and Quarter 4 2019 CDR, as well as additional CDRs from Quarter 1 2020 through Quarter 4 2020.
7. According to the United States Postal Service, the certified letter was delivered to Respondent's address of record on February 26, 2021 at 3:50 p.m.
8. On March 8, 2021, penalties begin to accrue at \$10.00 a day per report.
9. On March 18, 2021, penalties begin to accrue at \$100.00 a day per report.
10. Following the filing of the Complaint, the Commission subpoenaed Respondent's campaign bank account records. According to the records, Respondent opened his campaign bank account on September 9, 2019 with a \$25.00 personal contribution. The records further revealed that Respondent reached an accumulated aggregate on September 13, 2019 upon receiving a \$500.00 contribution via PayPal. However, Respondent did not file an Initial CDR within ten (10) days of receiving this contribution.
11. Respondent's campaign bank account records also reflected an October 1, 2019 cash withdrawal of \$110.00.
12. Finally, Respondent's campaign bank account records reflected the campaign bank account remained active until its closure date of January 31, 2020.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

1. At all times relevant, Respondent was a “candidate” pursuant to Section 8-13-1300(4). Therefore, the Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.

2. Section 8-13-1308 provides, in relevant part:

(A) Upon the receipt or expenditure of campaign contributions or the making of independent expenditures totaling an accumulated aggregate of five hundred dollars or more, a candidate . . . must file an initial certified campaign report within ten days of these initial receipts or expenditures. However, a candidate who does not receive or expend campaign contributions totaling an accumulated aggregate of five hundred dollars or more must file an initial certified campaign report fifteen days before an election.

(B) 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.

...

(D)(1) At least fifteen days before an election, a certified campaign report must be filed showing contributions of more than one hundred dollars and expenditures to or by the candidate for the period ending twenty days before the election.

3. Section 8-13-1348(E) provides:

A candidate or a duly authorized officer of a committee may not withdraw more than one hundred dollars from the campaign account to establish or replenish a petty cash fund for the candidate or committee at any time, and at no time may the fund exceed one hundred dollars. Expenditures from the petty cash fund may be made only for office supplies, food, transportation expenses, and other necessities and may not exceed twenty-five dollars for each expenditure.

4. Section 8-13-1510(A) provides:

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 the statement or report is not filed within five days after the established deadline provided by law in this chapter; and (2) after notice has been given by certified or registered mail that a required statement or report has not been filed, a fine of ten dollars per calendar

day for the first ten days after notice has been given, and one hundred dollars for each additional calendar day in which the required statement or report is not filed, not exceeding five thousand dollars.

5. Sections 8-13-130 and 8-13-320(10) allow the Panel to levy an administrative fee and to require payment of a civil penalty of up to \$2,000.00 for each violation of the Ethics Act.

DECISION

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Panel has determined, based on a preponderance of evidence, that Respondent Brian E. Taylor is in violation of one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308(A) for failing to file a 2019 Initial CDR; one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1) for failing to file a Quarter 3 2019/Pre-Election CDR; two (2) counts of Section 8-13-1308(B) for failing to file Quarter 4 2019 and Quarter 1 2020/Final CDRs; and one (1) count of Section 8-13-1348 for making a cash withdrawal over \$100.00.

THEREFORE, Respondent is hereby Publicly Reprimanded and assessed a reduced late-filing penalty of \$12,500.00, a civil penalty of \$2,000.00, and an administrative fee of \$1,000.00, for a total of \$15,500.00. Respondent is furthered ordered to file his 2019 Initial CDR, Quarter 3 2019/Pre-Election CDR, Quarter 4 2019 CDR, and Quarter 1 2020/Final CDR.

AND, pursuant to Section 8-13-320 of the Ethics Act, if the \$15,500.00 is not paid and the above outlined CDRs are not filed within ninety (90) days from Respondent's receipt of this Order, a judgment in the maximum possible amount of \$23,000.00 (a \$5,000 late-filing penalty for each CDR, a \$2,000.00 civil penalty, and a \$1,000.00 administrative fee) shall be entered against Respondent. In the event of a failure to pay, upon the Commission's filing of said Judgment with the Clerk of Court in the County of Respondent's last known residence, the Clerk of Court shall enter this Order in the amount of \$23,000.00 in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

FINALLY, Respondent Brian E. Taylor has ten (10) days from receipt of this Order to appeal this Decision and Order to the full Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 30th DAY OF April 2024.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION


F. XAVIER STARKES, HEARING CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

RECEIVED

2022 JAN 11 PM 1:43

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:
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C 2022-006

STATE ETHICS
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COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Brian E. Taylor
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: Candidate - Atlantic Beach Mayor

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 \$500; 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 an Initial Campaign Disclosure was due within ten days of receipt or expenditure of \$500.00, a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure was due between October 16, 2019 and October 21, 2019, and quarterly Campaign Disclosures were due no later than January 10, 2020, April 10, 2020, July 10, 2020, October 10, 2020, January 10, 2021, April 10, 2021, July 10, 2021, October 10, 2021, and January 10, 2022. Respondent was sent an email reminder thirty days before the Pre-Election and quarterly Campaign Disclosure deadlines.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by letters dated January 31, 2020 and February 21, 2021 as described in the attached. To date, no properly completed Initial, Pre-Election, January 10, 2020, April 10, 2020, July 10, 2020, October 10, 2020, January 10, 2021, April 10, 2021, July 10, 2021, October 10, 2021, or January 10, 2022 Campaign Disclosure has been received. All in violation of 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.

All investigations, inquiries, hearings, and accompanying documents must remain confidential unless respondent waives the right to confidentiality. 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. The willful release of confidential information is a misdemeanor, and any person releasing such confidential information, upon conviction, must be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or imprisoned not more than one year. Section 8-13-320(10)(g).

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF Richland

Personally appeared before me Meghan L. Walker 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
11th day of January 2022

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Meghan Walker, Executive Director

Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission expires 01/22/26

SEC-7 (Revised 8/2019)

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

Brian E. Taylor

October 30, 2019: Mr. Taylor calls Karen Wiggins for assistance filing his reports. He states he had received over \$500.00 and would call back when he had all his information.

January 31, 2020: \$300.00 penalty letter is sent for failure to file an Initial, Pre-Election (due between October 16, 2019 and October 21, 2019), and January 10, 2020 Campaign Disclosure

February 23, 2021: The penalty letter is sent certified and failure to file the April 10, 2020, July 10, 2020, October 10, 2020, and January 10, 2021 Campaign Disclosures are added.

February 26, 2021: The certified letter is delivered at 3:50 p.m. according to the United States Postal Service.

March 8, 2021: Penalties begin accruing at \$70 per day for the first ten days

March 18, 2021: Penalties begin accruing at \$700 per day

September 24, 2021: Due to the new system migration, a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure and an amendment are automatically generated in Mr. Taylor's account; however, they have not been filed.

January 10, 2022: Mr. Taylor had a "Saved Not Filed" Initial Campaign Disclosure in the old system. After no response, complaint is filed.

Previous or Current Non-Compliance

None

SC Ethics Filing (/filing)

Menu

Elections & Campaign Reports (/filing/offices-elections/office/45410/reports/report/207827/overview)

Brian Taylor

Statements of Economic Interests (/filing/offices-elections/office/45410/reports/report/207827/overview)

Admin User

Atlantic Beach Mayor (/filing/offices-elections/office/45410)

Reports (/filing/offices-elections/office/45410/reports)

Finances (/filing/offices-elections/office/45410/finances/contributions)

Contributors (/filing/offices-elections/office/45410/contributors)

Vendors (/filing/offices-elections/office/45410/vendors)

Elections (/filing/offices-elections/office/45410/elections)

Quarter 3 & Pre-Election (General) Report 2019

Filing Period: 9/3/2019 - 10/16/2019

Election Date: Nov 5, 2019

Election Type: General

Viewing Version: Original Report

Create PDF

Status: Submitted

Deadline: October 21, 2019



System-created report



Brian Taylor

PO Box 2304
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29598

Balances

Income	Filing Period	Election Cycle Total
Cash Contributions	\$0.00	\$0.00
In-kind Contributions	\$0.00	\$0.00
Debt Setoff Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00
Personal Contributions	\$0.00	\$0.00
Loans	\$0.00	\$0.00
Account Credits	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$0.00	\$0.00

Expenditures	Filing Period	Election Cycle Total
Expenditures	\$0.00	\$0.00
In-kind Expenditures	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$0.00	\$0.00

For Filing Period

Total Type	Starting Balance	Ending Balance
Campaign Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00



Date Produced: 03/01/2021

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ETHICS COMMISS:

The following is the delivery information for Certified Mail™/RRE item number 9214 8969 0099 9790 1419 0538 68. Our records indicate that this item was delivered on 02/26/2021 at 03:50 p.m. in NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SC 29582. The scanned image of the recipient information is provided below.

Signature of Recipient :

Address of Recipient :

PO BOX 2304
NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SC 29582-2304

Thank you for selecting the Postal Service for your mailing needs. If you require additional assistance, please contact your local post office or Postal Service representative.

Sincerely,
United States Postal Service

The customer reference number shown below is not validated or endorsed by the United States Postal Service. It is solely for customer use.

3/8/21 - \$70/day begins
3/18/21 - \$700/day begins

Customer Reference Number: Brian E. Taylor P.O. Box 2304

3-15

State of South Carolina State Ethics Commission

CHILDS C. THRASHER, CHAIR
DONALD GIST, VICE CHAIR
BRIAN M. BARNWELL



AJ HOLLOWAY
DON JACKSON
BRANDOLYN THOMAS PINKSTON

201 EXECUTIVE CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 150
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29210

MEGHAN L. WALKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 23, 2021

Delivered 02-26-2021

Mr. Brian E. Taylor
[Redacted]

CERTIFIED MAIL #: 9214 8969 0099 9790 1419 0538 68

SECOND NOTICE - AMENDED

Dear Mr. Taylor:

As a candidate for Atlantic Beach Mayor, the Ethics Reform Act requires you to file certain reports with the State Ethics Commission. An audit of your account indicates the following:

- An Initial Campaign Disclosure, which was due within ten days of receipt or expenditure of five hundred dollars or more, has not been filed.
- A Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure, which was to be filed prior to October 21, 2019 but no earlier than October 16, 2019, has not been filed.
- The January 10, 2020, April 10, 2020, July 10, 2020, October 10, 2020, and January 10, 2021 Campaign Disclosures have not been filed.

In accordance with Section 8-13-1510, South Carolina Code Ann., 1976, as amended, a late filing penalty of \$700.00 is hereby levied. If the required Campaign Disclosures are not filed electronically within ten calendar days of receipt of this letter, additional penalties will be levied at \$30 per day for the first ten days and \$300 per day for each additional day until the penalty reaches \$15,000, and a complaint will be filed against you. If extenuating circumstances prevented you from filing the reports as required, you may file a written appeal of this late filing penalty. To file an appeal, you must do the following within ten (10) days of the date you receive this letter:

- Send a personal check or money order made payable to the State Ethics Commission
- File all missing reports online at <http://ethics.sc.gov>
- Provide a written statement describing any extenuating circumstances. If you have closed your campaign account, please provide a copy of your last bank statement to consider a reduction in the late filing penalty.

Please be advised that all appeals must be in writing and must follow the above directions. NO phone or e-mail appeals will be accepted. Failure to file is a misdemeanor. After the maximum civil penalty has been levied, this matter will be referred to Magistrate's Court for criminal prosecution. This matter will also be referred to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for collection, and the penalty amount and your name, address (city) and position will be posted on the State Ethics Commission's website. Please contact this office if we can provide further information.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Ami R. Franklin
Assistant Director

ARF:kns

com100

(803) 253-4192

<http://ethics.sc.gov/>

FAX (803) 253-7539

U.S. Postal Service™
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For delivery information, visit our website at www.usps.com®

9214 8969 0099 9790 1419 0538 68

Certified Mail Fee	\$	\$3.60
Extra Services & Fees (check box, add fee as appropriate)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt (hardcopy)	\$	
<input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt (electronic)	\$	\$1.75
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail Restricted Delivery	\$	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Signature Required	\$	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Signature Restricted Delivery	\$	
Postage	\$	\$0.510
Total Postage and Fee	\$	\$5.860

Electronic Return Receipt Requested

Postmark
Here

Sent to:

Street Apt. No.,
or PO Box No.
City, State, ZIP+4

Brian E. Taylor
P.O. Box 2304
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29598

2-21

State of South Carolina
State Ethics Commission

CHILDS C. THRASHER, CHAIR
DONALD GIST, VICE CHAIR
BRIAN M. BARNWELL
SAMUEL L. ERWIN



DON JACKSON
VICTOR K. LI
BRANDOLYN THOMAS PINKSTON
ASHLEIGH R. WILSON

201 EXECUTIVE CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 150
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29210

MEGHAN L. WALKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January 31, 2020

Mr. Brian E. Taylor
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Taylor:

As a candidate for Atlantic Beach Mayor, the Ethics Reform Act requires you to file certain reports with the State Ethics Commission. An audit of your account indicates the following missing or late reports:

An Initial Campaign Disclosure, which was due within ten days of receipt or expenditure of five hundred dollars or more, has not been filed.

A Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure, which was to be filed prior to October 21, 2019 but no earlier than October 16, 2019, has not been filed.

A January 10, 2020 Campaign Disclosure has not been filed.

In accordance with Section 8-13-1510, South Carolina Code Ann., 1976, as amended, a late filing penalty of \$300.00 is hereby levied. If the required Campaign Disclosures are not filed electronically within ten calendar days of receipt of this letter, additional penalties will be levied at \$30 per day for the first ten days and \$300 per day for each additional day until the penalty reaches \$15,000, and a complaint will be filed against you. If extenuating circumstances prevented you from filing the reports as required, you may file a written appeal of this late filing penalty. To file an appeal, you must do the following within ten (10) days of the date you receive this letter:

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Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Ami R. Franklin
Assistant Director

ARF:ksn

(803) 253-4192

<http://ethics.sc.gov/>

com100

FAX (803) 253-7539

Statement of Candidacy General Elections

**Town of Atlantic Beach
Tuesday, November 5, 2019
For Office of Mayor**

I, Brian Taylor, hereby file a Statement of Candidacy to seek the position of Mayor.

I am paying the filing fee of \$ 50.00 at the filing of this statement.

Please print your name the way you wish it to appear on the ballot:

Brian E. Taylor

My name on the ballot may not imply professional or social status, an office or military rank. This name may be my given name, a derivative of my given name used in good faith for honest purposes or a nickname which bears no relation to my given name but which is used in good faith for honest purposes and does not exceed 15 letters on the ballot. My signature below attests to this.

I have never been convicted of, pled guilty or nolo contendere to a felony or an offense against the South Carolina election laws. If so, I have been pardoned under State or Federal law or it has been 15 years or more after the completed service of the sentence, including probation and parole time. My signature below attests to this.

I hereby affirm that I meet, or will meet by the time of the General or Special election or as otherwise required by law, the qualifications to hold this office.

Candidate's Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Address: [Redacted]

Telephone Number (Day): [Redacted] (Evening): [Redacted]

Voter Registration Number: 265788920

Signature of Receiving Authority: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 9-3-2019 Time: 4:50 p.m.

Nabors, Kristin

From: Nabors, Kristin
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 11:08 AM
To: Wiggins, Karen
Cc: Willis, Sandra
Subject: RE: Brian Taylor - Candidate for May for Atlantic Beach on 11/5/2019

Yes, I just needed to verify that he told you he had received over \$500. Thanks!

Kristin S. Nabors
Supervisor – Non-Compliance
State Ethics Commission
201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150
Columbia, SC 29210
(803) 253-4192
(803) 253-7539

From: Wiggins, Karen <karen@ethics.sc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 10:27 AM
To: Nabors, Kristin <kristin@ethics.sc.gov>
Cc: Willis, Sandra <Sandra@ethics.sc.gov>
Subject: FW: Brian Taylor - Candidate for May for Atlantic Beach on 11/5/2019

Brian called me on October 30—after the Pre and Oct. 10 deadlines. He told me he had received over \$500—I believe it went back to late September. We determined that he needed to file an Initial and Pre/Oct. 10. His mother had paid for his filing fee, so that was going to be changed. He said most of his money came from out-of-state contributors via PayPal. He wanted to make sure that when he won the mayor's race, that not filing these disclosure reports on time would not prevent him from winning. I told him there would be a penalty, but it would not keep him from winning an election. He was going to call me back when he got all of that information.

Is this what you needed?

From: Wiggins, Karen
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2019 4:30 PM
To: Laster, Courtney <claster@ethics.sc.gov>
Cc: Willis, Sandra <Sandra@ethics.sc.gov>; Nabors, Kristin <kristin@ethics.sc.gov>
Subject: Brian Taylor - Candidate for May for Atlantic Beach on 11/5/2019

Courtney,

I want to put this on record in case I retire next year.

Brian Taylor called for help with filing any reports that are required right now—Town Hall gave him nothing when he signed up September 3.

He is late for not filing the Initial CD by mid-September and late for not filing the Oct. 10/Pre CD by October 28.

We were working on entering the contributions, but he had no addresses or occupations. He said a lot of people out of state gave to his campaign through Pay Pal.

I told him he had to get the addresses and occupations.

He wanted to know "when I win Tuesday, would I lose the election if I did not file these reports by the election day?"

I told him it would not affect the voting, but he would be receiving penalty letters in the near future for missing the filing deadlines.

He was not happy that he had to report the information on the out-of-state Pay Pal contributors, but would see what he could do.

Karen A. Wiggins
Program Coordinator – Operations/Disclosure Division
S. C. State Ethics Commission
201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150
Columbia, SC 29210
803/832-8155
<http://ethics.sc.gov>

SC.GOV - SC State Ethics Commission: Public Disclosure and Accountability Reporting
Electronic Filing
Candidate Campaign Disclosure: Candidate Profile

Personal Information

*First Name

Middle Initial

*Last Name

Suffix

*Mailing Address

*City

*State

*County *SC Residents Only*

*Zip Code

*Phone Number

*Email

Notification emails regarding report filing and reporting deadlines will be sent to this email address.

① No Initial
② No Pre

« Back

Save

SC.GOV - SC State Ethics Commission: Public Disclosure and Accountability Reporting
Electronic Filing

Candidate Campaign Disclosure: Review

2019, Initial Report

Candidate: Taylor, Brian E
Position Sought: Mayor
Election Type: General
Election Date: 11/05/2019
Filing Type: Original, Not Filed

Demographic Information

PO Box 2304
 North Myrtle Beach, SC 29598
 202.271.6974
 County: Horry

Report Type

2019, Initial

Contributions	This Period	Election Cycle
A. Candidates: Personal Funds	\$25.00	\$25.00
B1. Individual Contributions or other (+)	\$50.00	\$50.00
B2. Loans (+)	\$0.00	\$0.00
C. In-Kind Contributions (+)	\$0.00	\$0.00
D. Total Contributions (=)	\$75.00	\$75.00

Expenditures	This Period	Election Cycle
A. In-Kind Expenditures	\$0.00	\$0.00
B. Expenditures (+)	\$0.00	\$0.00
C. Total Expenditures (=)	\$0.00	\$0.00

Balance of Contributions	This Period
A. Contributions on Hand (Beginning this Period)	\$0.00
B. Total Contributions (This Period) (+)	\$75.00
C. Total Expenditures (This Period) (-)	\$0.00
D. Contributions On Hand (Period End) (=)	\$75.00

Loans

Loan Balance: **\$0.00**

Contributions

Date	Contributor	Address	Occupation	Amount
09/09/2019	Brian Taylor	PO Box 2304 North Myrtle Beach, SC 29598	Business Owner	\$25.00
09/03/2019	Brian Taylor	PO Box 2304 North Myrtle Beach, SC 29598	Business Owner	\$50.00
Total				\$75.00

*** No Expenditures Reported. ***

*** No Loans Reported. ***

*** No Loan Repayments Reported. ***

*** No Assets Purchased or Received Reported. ***

*** No Disposition of Assets Reported. ***

Go Back Print

SC.GOV - SC State Ethics Commission: Public Disclosure and Accountability Reporting

Electronic Filing

Candidate's Campaign Disclosures

*To file a new report, [click 'START A NEW FILING'](#).

If you did a **Final** Candidate's Campaign Disclosure report for your last election, you need to [click here to start a new user account](#) for your new campaign.

Directions

Use the left menu to navigate between report types. To review information you have entered, click each tab below. To work with or view a report, click on one of the links to the right of the report.

Working with Reports

You may only have one Original version of a "Saved" report at a time. To begin a new report, first complete and file your Original "saved" report.

Click the 'Amend' link for the report you need to amend, make necessary changes and file the report again. **Recalculations of totals will automatically carry through for all subsequently filed reports in the order they were filed- both original and amendments - in "Current Filings"**.

If you choose to amend a report, you are responsible for making any changes necessary to other reports that may be affected.

[START A NEW FILING](#)

Current Filings Archived Filings

Date Filed	Filing Type	Report Type	Election Type	Election Date	View	Edit / Amend	Delete
Not Filed	Saved	2019 Initial	General	11/05/2019	Original	Edit	Delete

May 21, 2024


201 Executive Center Drive,
Suite 150,
Columbia, SC 29210

RE: Complaint C2022-006

Dear Ms. Laster,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to **APPEAL** the Decision and Order that was rendered on April 18, 2024. I have tried to get this taken care of prior to this and I am more than willing to clear this matter up as soon as possible. I ran for office in 2019 and since then there's been a pandemic, my mother became ill and passed away, I've had serious financial challenges and I've had several other deaths in my family. It's been hard to focus on much else. That being said I am appealing this judgement and asking for an opportunity to get this cleared up as soon as possible.

Sincerely,


Brian E. Taylor

Brian E. Taylor


STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
RECEIVED MAY 23 2024 PM 12:17

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
Complaint C2022-006)
State Ethics Commission,)
APPELLATE.)
Brian E. Taylor,)
APPELLANT.)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

NOTICE OF APPELLATE HEARING

Brian E. Taylor served a Motion for an Appeal on the State Ethics Commission on May 23, 2024. The State Ethics Commission will, therefore, convene a formal appellate hearing into the matter, in accordance with State Ethics Commission Regulations, 52 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 802 (2013 Cum. Supp.) on September 19, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. at the State Ethics Commission Hearing Room located at: 201 Executive Center Drive Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

Pursuant to 52 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 803, the Appellant shall file any additional briefs within ten (10) days of the date of service of this notice. In the event the Appellant fails to appear, he will have waived his hearing and judgment will stand.



Meghan Walker Dayson
Executive Director

Dated this 31st day,
of May 2024.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF APPELLATE HEARING** was duly served on the Respondent Brian E. Taylor, P.O. Box 2304, North Myrtle Beach, SC 29598 by depositing said **NOTICE OF APPELLATE HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 3rd day of June 2024, by CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.



Rachael O'Bryan, Administrative Assistant
State Ethics Commission

Columbia, South Carolina

(803) 253-4192

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
Complaint C2022-006)
State Ethics Commission,)
APPELLATE.)
Brian E. Taylor,)
APPELLANT.)

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Rachael O'Bryan, Administrative Assistant
State Ethics Commission

Columbia, South Carolina

(803) 253-4192

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
Complaint C2022-006)
Brian E. Taylor,)
APPELLANT.)
v.)
State Ethics Commission,)
RESPONDENT.)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

APPEAL ORDER

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of an Appeal filed by Brian E. Taylor (Appellant) to appeal the Decision and Order (Decision) of the Commission Hearing Panel (Hearing Panel) issued April 18, 2024. Present at the Appellate Hearing held on November 21, 2024, were Commissioners Brandolyn T. Pinkston, Bryant S. Caldwell, Mary Hunter B. Tomlinson, Matthew N. Tyler, and Neal D. Truslow, Appellate Panel Chair.¹ Appellant appeared *pro se*, and the Commission was represented by Renique K. Brabham, Esq.

FACTS

On April 18, 2024, pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Act), the Hearing Panel received testimony in Complaint C2022-006 charging Appellant with the following: one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1308(A) for failing to file a 2019 Initial Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR); one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1308(D)(1) for failing to file a Quarter 3 2019/Pre-Election CDR; two (2) counts of violating Section 8-13-1308(B) for failing to file Quarter 4 2019 and Quarter 1 2020/Final CDRs; and one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1348 for making a cash withdrawal in excess of \$100.00. Ultimately, the Hearing Panel found Appellant in violation of all five (5) counts and assessed a late-

¹ Commissioners Pinkston and Caldwell appeared virtually. Pursuant to S.C. Code Regs. Ann. 52-805, Commissioners Scott Frick, F. Xavier Starkes, and AJ Holloway did not participate because they served on the original Hearing Panel.

filing penalty of \$12,500.00, a civil penalty of \$2,000.00, and an administrative fee of \$1,000.00, for a total of \$15,500.00. The Hearing Panel ordered that if this amount was not paid to the Commission within ninety (90) days, a judgment would be filed against Respondent for the maximum penalty of \$23,000.00. Appellant timely filed a request for an appeal.

The Appellant now asks the Appellate Panel for a reduction of the assessed penalties and fees. Appellant does not dispute liability and admits responsibility for his failure to comply with the requirements of the Act. Appellant asks only that the amount assessed be reduced given the size of his campaign and his current financial status.

DECISION

NOW, based on the information presented by the Appellant, the Appellate Panel affirms the Hearing Panel's Decision as to liability and responsibility but extends the time to pay the penalty to twelve (12) months from the date of Appellant's receipt of this Order.

Pursuant to Section 8-13-320 of the Act, if the reduced penalty amount of \$15,500.00 is not paid within the specified time period, a judgment in the amount of \$23,000.00 shall be entered against Appellant. In the event of a failure to pay, upon the Commission's filing of said judgment with the Clerk of Court in Appellant's last known County of residence, the Clerk of Court shall enter this Order in the amount of \$23,000.00 in its Judgment Rolls, less any monies paid, without cost to the Commission.

FINALLY, in accordance with Section 8-13-320(10)(m), this review is the final disposition of this matter before the Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 6TH DAY OF JANUARY 2025.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

NEAL D. TRUSLOW,
APPELLATE PANEL CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina