

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
RECEIVED SEP 22 '22 PML 1:35:5

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:
CASE NUMBER
C 2022-116

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Barbara Bowman
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: Candidate - Sumter County School District 1

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 a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure was due between October 17, 2018 and October 22, 2018. Respondent was sent an email reminder thirty days before the Campaign Disclosure deadline.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by a certified letter dated March 29, 2022 as described in the attached. To date, a properly completed Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure has not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A), 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 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
22nd day of September, 2022

[REDACTED]
Meghan L. Walker, Executive Director

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

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

C102form

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)	
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
)	
IN THE MATTER OF:)	
)	
Complaint C2022-116)	
)	
State Ethics Commission)	NOTICE OF HEARING
Complainant.)	
)	
Barbara Bowman)	
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 17, 2025 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 PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(D)(1), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Barbara Bowman, candidate for Sumter County School Board – District 1, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2018 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR), in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1).

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

That Barbara Bowman, candidate for Sumter County School Board – District 1, did in

Richland County, fail to file 2018 Quarter 4 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Barbara Bowman, candidate for Sumter County School Board – District 1, did in Richland County, fail to file 2019 Quarter 1 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Barbara Bowman, candidate for Sumter County School Board – District 1, did in Richland County, fail to file 2019 Quarter 2/Final CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT FIVE
USE OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS FOR PERSONAL EXPENSES
SECTION 8-13-1348(A), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Barbara Bowman, candidate for Sumter County School Board – District 1, did in Richland County, donate \$20.00 to Respondent’s church, in violation of Section 8-13-1348(A).

COUNT SIX
IMPROPER DISBURSEMENT OF UNEXPENDED CAMPAIGN FUNDS
SECTION 8-13-1370, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Barbara Bowman, candidate for Sumter County School Board – District 1, did in Richland County, improperly write a check to “cash” in the amount of \$100.00 to close Respondent’s campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1370.

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 25th day,
of November 2024.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Barbara Bowman, 4333 S. Lake Cherryvale Drive, Apt. D, Sumter, SC 29154 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 9th day of December 2024, by CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.



Columbia, South Carolina

Rachael O'Bryan, Administrative Assistant
State Ethics Commission (803) 253-4192



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
RECEIVED SEP 22 2022 11:35:2

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:
CASE NUMBER
C 2022-116

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Barbara Bowman
ADDRESS: [Redacted]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [Redacted]
TITLE: Candidate - Sumter County School District 1

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Records of the State Ethics Commission indicate that a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure was due between October 17, 2018 and October 22, 2018. Respondent was sent an email reminder thirty days before the Campaign Disclosure deadline.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by a certified letter dated March 29, 2022 as described in the attached. To date, a properly completed Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure has not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A), Section 8-13-1308(D)(1), and Section 8-13-1308 (F), S.C. Code Ann., 1976, as amended.

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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 22nd day of September, 2022

[Redacted Signature]

Meghan J. Walker, Executive Director

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

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

C102form

State of South Carolina
State Ethics Commission

5-17

**SCOTT E. FRICK
AJ HOLLOWAY
BRANDOLYN THOMAS PINKSTON
F. XAVIER STARKES**



**MARY HUNTER B. TOMLINSON
NEAL D. TRUSLOW
MATTHEW N. TYLER**

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

**MEGHAN L. WALKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

April 27, 2022

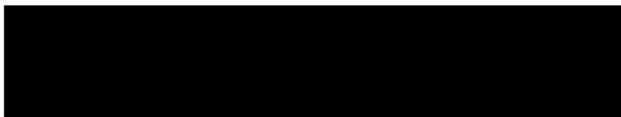
Ms. Barbara Bowman
4333 S. Lake Cherryvale Drive, Apt. D
Sumter, SC 29154

RE: FAILURE TO FILE PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

Dear Ms. Bowman:

We have received the \$100.00 late filing penalty; however, you have not filed your Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure for the November 6, 2018 election. Payment of the penalty does not relieve you of your obligation to file the reports. Failure to comply within ten days could result in complaint action being taken against you, and additional penalties will accrue. Failure to file is a misdemeanor, and upon conviction carries a fine of up to \$5,000.00, and up to one-year imprisonment, or both. Please contact this office if you need assistance filing the report.

Sincerely,


Ami R. Franklin
Assistant Director

ARF:ksn

com505



Date Produced: 04/04/2022

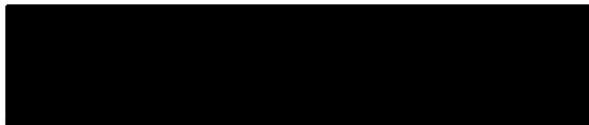
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ETHICS COMMISS:

The following is the delivery information for Certified Mail™/RRE/RD item number 9236 0969 0099 9790 1421 3032 23. Our records indicate that this item was delivered on 04/01/2022 at 01:25 p.m. in SUMTER, SC 29154. The scanned image of the recipient information is provided below.

Signature of Recipient :



Address of Recipient :



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.

4-11-22: \$10/day

4-21-22: \$100/day

Customer Reference Number: Barbara Bowman 4333 S. Lake C

State of South Carolina State Ethics Commission

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



AJ HOLLOWAY
DON JACKSON
BRANDOLYN THOMAS PINKSTON

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

MEGHAN L. WALKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

\$300

March 29, 2022

Ms. Barbara Bowman

RE: SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE COLLECTION PROGRAMS

Dear Ms. Bowman:

According to our records, you owe the State Ethics Commission a debt in the amount of \$300.00 for the Initial Campaign Disclosure due March 11, 2016, the Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure due between May 25, 2016 and May 31, 2016, and the July 10, 2016 Campaign Disclosure. You are hereby notified of the State Ethics Commission's intention to submit and/or resubmit this debt to the South Carolina Department of Revenue through the Setoff Debt Collection Act and/or Governmental Enterprise Accounts Receivable Collections Program until the debt is paid in full. The Setoff Debt Collection Act allows the Department of Revenue to deduct this amount, plus all costs, including a \$25 administrative fee, from your South Carolina individual income tax refund unless you file a written protest within thirty days of the date of this notice protesting the debt. If you file a joint return with your spouse, this amount will be deducted from the total joint refund without regard to which spouse incurred the debt or withheld the taxes. The GEAR Program, SC Code Section 12-4-580, authorizes the Department of Revenue to utilize all rights and powers of collection allowed under Title 12 collection of the above debt. These powers include garnishment of wages, seizure of personal property, and the revocation of any license. 1027
3/25/22
you must file a written protest with the following information:

1. Name, address, and telephone number
2. Social Security number
3. The type of protest

The original written protest must be filed with you to present your protest to reduce the penalty assessed under the State Ethics Commission Reform Act, and the protest must be filed in writing and must



Kristin S. Nabors
Administrative Coordinator

4-19

State of South Carolina State Ethics Commission

**CHILDS C. THRASHER, CHAIR
DONALD GIST, VICE CHAIR
BRIAN M. BARNWELL
SCOTT E. FRICK**



**AJ HOLLOWAY
DON JACKSON
BRANDOLYN THOMAS PINKSTON**

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

**MEGHAN L. WALKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

March 29, 2022

Ms. Barbara Bowman



CERTIFIED MAIL RESTRICTED DELIVERY #: 9236 0969 0099 9790 1421 3032 23

Dear Ms. Bowman:

This is not a form letter. You are receiving this letter because you are currently in violation of the Ethics Reform Act. As a candidate for Sumter County School District 1, you are subject to the Ethics Reform Act, which is the body of laws that govern public officials, public members, and public employees.

Continued delays in filing the Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure will result in accrual of late filing penalties with a maximum penalty of \$5,000.00.

Please be advised that this letter only addresses late or missing reports, and you could still be subject to a random audit regarding illegal contributions and expenditures. Due to the new system migration in September 2021, you may see reports in your account that say, "System Created Report." This means you did not file them or filed them late in the old system. You must add any contributions or expenditures not previously reported. This will create an amendment to your system created report. If you do not have any further contributions or expenditures to report, please send confirmation in writing. While reviewing your Campaign Disclosures and Statements of Economic Interests, the following deficiencies were discovered:

A Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure, which was to be filed prior to October 22, 2018 but no earlier than October 17, 2018, has not been filed.

In accordance with Section 8-13-1510, South Carolina Code Ann., 1976, as amended, a late filing penalty of \$100.00 is hereby levied. If the required report is not filed electronically within ten calendar days of receipt of this letter, additional penalties will be levied at \$10 per day per report for the first ten days and \$100 per day per report for each additional day until the penalty reaches \$5,000 per report, and a complaint will be filed against you.

Barbara Bowman
March 29, 2022
Page 2 of 2

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 and include any supporting documentation.

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,



Ami R. Franklin
Assistant Director

ARF:kns

com100

U.S. Postal Service™ CERTIFIED MAIL® RECEIPT <i>Domestic Mail Only</i>	
For delivery information, visit our website at www.usps.com ®	
9236 0969 0099 9790 1421 3032 23	
Certified Mail Fee	\$ 3.75
Extra Services & Fees (check box, add fee as appropriate)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt (hardcopy)	\$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt (electronic)	\$ 1.85
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail Restricted Delivery	\$ 6.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Signature Required	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Signature Restricted Delivery	\$
Postage	\$
Total Postage and Fees	\$
Sent To	Barbara Bowman 4333 S. Lake Cherryvale, Apt. D Sumter, SC 29154
Sender's No.	
or FID No.	
City/State/Zip+4	
PS Form 3800, April 2018 See Reverse for Instructions	

7-22

State of South Carolina State Ethics Commission

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



AJ HOLLOWAY
DON JACKSON
BRANDOLYN THOMAS PINKSTON

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

MEGHAN L. WALKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

July 2, 2021

Delivered 7-07-2021

CERTIFIED MAIL #: 9214 8969 0099 9790 1419 8651 19

Ms. Barbara Bowman



SECOND NOTICE

Dear Ms. Bowman:

As a Candidate for Sumter County School District Trustee and Sumter County Council, 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 no later than March 11, 2016, was filed on March 29, 2016.
- A Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure, which was to be filed prior to May 31, 2016 but no earlier than May 25, 2016, was filed on June 30, 2016
- A July 10, 2016 Campaign Disclosure was filed on July 21, 2016.
- A Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure, which was to be filed prior to October 22, 2018 but no earlier than October 17, 2018, has not been filed. *Re-send as new penalty. No signature.*

In accordance with Section 8-13-1510, South Carolina Code Ann., 1976, as amended, a late filing penalty of \$400.00 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 \$10 per day for the first ten days and \$100 per day for each additional day until the penalty reaches \$5,000, 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
- Provide a written statement describing any extenuating circumstances.

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,



Ami R. Franklin
Assistant Director

ARF:ksn

com100

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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

RESPONDENT: Barbara Bowman
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (803) 467-5670
TITLE: Candidate - Sumter County School District 1

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Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by a certified letter dated March 29, 2022 as described in the attached. To date, a properly completed Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure has not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A), Section 8-13-1308(D)(1), and Section 8-13-1308 (F), S.C. Code Ann., 1976, as amended.

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Sworn to and subscribed before me this
22nd day of September, 2022

[REDACTED]
Meghan L. Walker, Executive Director

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

SEC-7 (Revised 3/2022)

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C102form

Barbara Bowman

May 13, 2022: \$100.00 penalty is assessed for failure to file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure between October 17, 2018 and October 22, 2018. She is also assessed penalties for three late reports.

July 2, 2021: The penalty letter is sent certified.

July 7, 2021: According to the United States Postal Service, the certified letter is "Delivered, Left with Individual" at 11:21 a.m. The signature of recipient says "COVID-19"

March 29, 2022: \$100.00 penalty letter is sent certified restricted delivery for the Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure.

April 1, 2022: According to the United States Postal Service, the certified letter is delivered at 1:25 p.m.

Ms. Bowman pays the late filing penalty.

April 11, 2022: Penalties begin accruing at \$10 per day for the first ten days

April 21, 2022: Penalties begin accruing at \$100 per day

April 27, 2022: A letter is sent to Ms. Bowman to acknowledge receipt of her penalty and to remind her to file the Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure.

September 21, 2022: After no response, complaint is filed.

Previous or Current Non-Compliance

Initial Campaign Disclosure (due 3-11-16),
Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure (due 5-31-16),
and Quarter 2 2016 Campaign Disclosure

Paid \$300.00

State of South Carolina
State Ethics Commission

5-17

SCOTT E. FRICK
AJ HOLLOWAY
BRANDOLYN THOMAS PINKSTON
F. XAVIER STARKES



MARY HUNTER B. TOMLINSON
NEAL D. TRUSLOW
MATTHEW N. TYLER

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

MEGHAN L. WALKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 27, 2022

Ms. Barbara Bowman

RE: FAILURE TO FILE PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

Dear Ms. Bowman:

We have received the \$100.00 late filing penalty; however, you have not filed your Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure for the November 6, 2018 election. Payment of the penalty does not relieve you of your obligation to file the reports. Failure to comply within ten days could result in complaint action being taken against you, and additional penalties will accrue. Failure to file is a misdemeanor, and upon conviction carries a fine of up to \$5,000.00, and up to one-year imprisonment, or both. Please contact this office if you need assistance filing the report.

Sincerely,

Ami R. Franklin
Assistant Director

ARF:ksn

com505



Date Produced: 04/04/2022

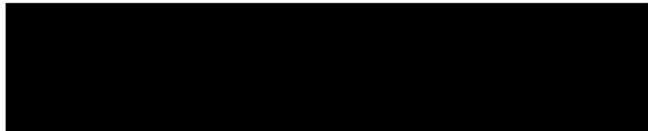
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Address of Recipient :



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United States Postal Service

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4-11-22: \$10/day
4-21-22: \$100/day

Customer Reference Number: Barbara Bowman 4333 S. Lake C

State of South Carolina State Ethics Commission

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



AJ HOLLOWAY
DON JACKSON
BRANDOLYN THOMAS PINKSTON

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

MEGHAN L. WALKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

\$ 300

March 29, 2022

Ms. Barbara Bowman

RE: SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE COLLECTION PROGRAMS

Dear Ms. Bowman:

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you must file a written protest with the Department of Revenue by **3/26/22** **3/26/22**

information:

1. Name, address, and telephone number
2. Social Security number
3. The type of debt

The original written protest must be filed with the Department of Revenue **to reduce the penalty under the State Ethics Commission Reform Act, and the protest must be filed in writing and must include the following information:**

Kristin S. Nabors
Administrative Coordinator

4-19

State of South Carolina
State Ethics Commission

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



AJ HOLLOWAY
DON JACKSON
BRANDOLYN THOMAS PINKSTON

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

MEGHAN L. WALKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 29, 2022

Ms. Barbara Bowman

CERTIFIED MAIL RESTRICTED DELIVERY #: 9236 0969 0099 9790 1421 3032 23

Dear Ms. Bowman:

This is not a form letter. You are receiving this letter because you are currently in violation of the Ethics Reform Act. As a candidate for Sumter County School District 1, you are subject to the Ethics Reform Act, which is the body of laws that govern public officials, public members, and public employees.

Continued delays in filing the Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure will result in accrual of late filing penalties with a maximum penalty of \$5,000.00.

Please be advised that this letter only addresses late or missing reports, and you could still be subject to a random audit regarding illegal contributions and expenditures. Due to the new system migration in September 2021, you may see reports in your account that say, "System Created Report." This means you did not file them or filed them late in the old system. You must add any contributions or expenditures not previously reported. This will create an amendment to your system created report. If you do not have any further contributions or expenditures to report, please send confirmation in writing. While reviewing your Campaign Disclosures and Statements of Economic Interests, the following deficiencies were discovered:

A Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure, which was to be filed prior to October 22, 2018 but no earlier than October 17, 2018, has not been filed.

In accordance with Section 8-13-1510, South Carolina Code Ann., 1976, as amended, a late filing penalty of \$100.00 is hereby levied. If the required report is not filed electronically within ten calendar days of receipt of this letter, additional penalties will be levied at \$10 per day per report for the first ten days and \$100 per day per report for each additional day until the penalty reaches \$5,000 per report, 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 and include any supporting documentation.

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,



Ami R. Franklin
Assistant Director

ARF:kns

com100

U.S. Postal Service™ CERTIFIED MAIL® RECEIPT <i>Domestic Mail Only</i>	
For delivery information, visit our website at www.usps.com ®	
9236 0969 0099 9790 1421 3032 23	
Certified Mail Fee	\$ 3.75
Extra Services & Fees (check box, add fee as appropriate)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt (hardcopy)	\$ _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt (electronic)	\$ 1.85
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail Restricted Delivery	\$ 6.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Signature Required	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Signature Restricted Delivery	\$ _____
Postage	\$ _____
Total Postage and Fees	\$ _____
Restricted Delivery Requested	
Postmark Here	
Sent To: Barbara Bowman 4333 S. Lake Cherryvale, Apt. D Sumter, SC 29154	
Street, Apt. No., or PO Box No. City, State, Zip+4	
PS Form 3800, April 2018 See Reverse for Instructions	



July 13, 2021

Dear SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ETHICS COMMISSION:

The following is in response to your request for proof of delivery on your item with the tracking number: **9214 8969 0099 9790 1419 8651 19**.

Item Details

Status: Delivered, Left with Individual
Status Date / Time: July 7, 2021, 11:21 am
Location: SUMTER, SC 29154
Postal Product: First-Class Mail®
Extra Services: Certified Mail™
Return Receipt Electronic
Recipient Name: Barbara A Bowman

Shipment Details

Weight: 0.0oz

Recipient Signature

Signature of Recipient:	COVID-19 COVID-19
Address of Recipient:	COVID-19

Note: Scanned image may reflect a different destination address due to Intended Recipient's delivery instructions on file.

Thank you for selecting the United States Postal Service® for your mailing needs. If you require additional assistance, please contact your local Post Office™ or a Postal representative at 1-800-222-1811.

Sincerely,
United States Postal Service®
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20260-0004

7-17-21 : GEAR

7-22

State of South Carolina State Ethics Commission

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



AJ HOLLOWAY
DON JACKSON
BRANDOLYN THOMAS PINKSTON

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

MEGHAN L. WALKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

July 2, 2021

Delivered 7-07-2021

CERTIFIED MAIL #: 9214 8969 0099 9790 1419 8651 19

Ms. Barbara Bowman



SECOND NOTICE

Dear Ms. Bowman:

As a Candidate for Sumter County School District Trustee and Sumter County Council, 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 no later than March 11, 2016, was filed on March 29, 2016.
- A Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure, which was to be filed prior to May 31, 2016 but no earlier than May 25, 2016, was filed on June 30, 2016
- A July 10, 2016 Campaign Disclosure was filed on July 21, 2016.
- A Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure, which was to be filed prior to October 22, 2018 but no earlier than October 17, 2018, has not been filed. *Re-send as new penalty. No signature.*

In accordance with Section 8-13-1510, South Carolina Code Ann., 1976, as amended, a late filing penalty of \$400.00 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 \$10 per day for the first ten days and \$100 per day for each additional day until the penalty reaches \$5,000, 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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- Provide a written statement describing any extenuating circumstances.

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Sincerely,



Ami R. Franklin
Assistant Director

ARF:ksn

com100

6-3

State of South Carolina State Ethics Commission

CHILDS C. THRASHER, CHAIR
DONALD GIST, VICE CHAIR



BRIAN M. BARNWELL
DON JACKSON

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

MEGHAN L. WALKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 13, 2020

Ms. Barbara Bowman



Dear Ms. Bowman:

As a Candidate for Sumter County School District Trustee and Sumter County Council, 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 no later than March 11, 2016, was filed on March 29, 2016.
- A Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure, which was to be filed prior to May 31, 2016 but no earlier than May 25, 2016, was filed on June 30, 2016
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- Send a personal check or money order made payable to the State Ethics Commission
- Provide a written statement describing any extenuating circumstances.

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Sincerely,



Ami R. Franklin
Assistant Director

ARF:sb

com100

Candidate Detail

SCVotes.gov

Election: Statewide General Election

Office: School Board District, 01

Candidate: Barbara Bowman

Party: Nonpartisan

Address: 4

Status: Defeated in Election

Date Filed: 7/16/2018

Location Filed: SUMTER

Statement of Intent: [View Document](#)

Statement of Intention of Candidacy - Nonpartisan

- This form must be completed by a candidate seeking nonpartisan office. Contact the receiving authority for filing deadlines.
- The S.C. Constitution prohibits a person who has been convicted of a felony from filing for public office for 15 years after the completion of the sentence, including probation and parole time, unless previously pardoned.

Name		Barbara Bowman			
Office		Sumter School Board Area I			
County or City		County	Election Date	November 06, 2018	
Address		[REDACTED]		City	Sumter
Email Address		bbowman28@FTE-i.net			
Telephone		Cell	[REDACTED]	Home	803-494-9445
Voter Registration Number		436965871			2018 JUL 16 PM 1:01
Guidelines for a Candidate's Name to appear on the ballot: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A given name or a derivative may be used ▪ The name may not contain quotations, parentheses, or other distinguishing marks ▪ Nicknames are allowed if they are used in good faith for honest purposes and do not: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Imply professional or social status ▪ Include an office or military rank ▪ Exceed 15 letters 					
Name as you wish it to appear on ballot (please print)		Barbara Bowman			

Candidate's Oath	
I affirm I meet, or will meet by the time of the general or special election, the qualifications for this office.	
Candidate's Signature	[REDACTED]

To be Completed by Receiving Authority			
Date Received	7/16/2018	Time Received	12:01
Received By	[REDACTED]	Filing Fee Amount Paid	0
		Receiving Authority	[REDACTED]

6-3

State of South Carolina State Ethics Commission

CHILD S. THRASHER, CHAIR
DONALD GENT, VICE CHAIR



BRIAN M. BARNWELL
DON JACKSON

201 EXECUTIVE CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 170
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29210

MEGHAN L. WALKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 13, 2020

Ms. Barbara Bowman
P.O. Box 1315
Sumter, SC 29151

Dear Ms. Bowman:

As a Candidate for Sumter County School District Trustee and Sumter County Council, 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 no later than March 11, 2016, was filed on March 29, 2016.
- A Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure, which was to be filed prior to May 31, 2016 but no earlier than May 25, 2016, was filed on June 30, 2016
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Sincerely,



Ami R. Franklin
Assistant Director

ARF:sb

com100

Candidate Detail

SCVotes.gov

Election: Statewide General Election
Office: School Board District, 01
Candidate: Barbara Bowman
Party: Nonpartisan

Address: [REDACTED]

Status: Defeated in Election
Date Filed: 7/16/2018
Location Filed: SUMTER

Statement of Intent: [View Document](#)

Statement of Intention of Candidacy - Nonpartisan

- This form must be completed by a candidate seeking nonpartisan office. Contact the receiving authority for filing deadlines.
- The S.C. Constitution prohibits a person who has been convicted of a felony from filing for public office for 15 years after the completion of the sentence, including probation and parole time, unless previously pardoned.

Name		Barbara Bowman	
Office		Sumter School Board Area I	
County or City	County	Election Date	November 06, 2018
Address	[REDACTED]	City	Sumter Zip 29151
Email Address	bbowman28@Ftc-i.net		
Telephone	Cell 803-467-5670	Home 803-494-9445	Work
Voter Registration Number	436965871		
Guidelines for a Candidate's Name to appear on the ballot: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A given name or a derivative may be used ▪ The name may not contain quotations, parentheses, or other distinguishing marks ▪ Nicknames are allowed if they are used in good faith for honest purposes and do not: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Imply professional or social status ▪ Include an office or military rank ▪ Exceed 15 letters 			2018 JUL 16 PM 1:51
Name as you wish it to appear on ballot (please print)		Barbara Bowman	

Candidate's Oath	
I affirm I meet, or will meet by the time of the general or special election, the qualifications for this office.	
Candidate's Signature	[REDACTED]

To be Completed by Receiving Authority			
Date Received	7/16/2018	Time Received	12:01
Received By	[REDACTED]	Filing Fee Amount Paid	0
		Receiving Authority	[REDACTED]

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2022-116)
State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant.)
Barbara Bowman,)
Respondent.)
_____)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

DECISION AND ORDER

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 Barbara Bowman (Respondent) and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing. Present at the hearing on April 17, 2025, were Commissioners Neal D. Truslow, Mary Hunter B. Tomlinson, and Matthew N. Tyler, Hearing Panel Chair. Respondent appeared *pro se*. The Commission was represented by Courtney M. Laster, Esq. The following charges were considered: one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1) for failing to file a 2018 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR); three (3) counts of Section 8-13-1308(B) for failing to file CDRs for 2018 Quarter 4, 2019 Quarter 1, and 2019 Quarter 2/Final; one (1) count of Section 8-13-1348(A) for donating \$20.00 in campaign funds to Respondent’s church; and one (1) count of Section 8-13-1370 for improperly disbursing unused campaign funds by writing a \$100.00 check payable to “cash.”

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. Respondent was an unsuccessful candidate for Sumter County School Board in a November 6, 2018 election.
2. Respondent failed to file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) prior to the

election.

3. In a July 2, 2021 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of her failure to file a 2018 Pre-Election CDR.¹
4. According to the United States Postal Service (USPS), the certified letter was delivered to Respondent's address of record on July 7, 2021 at 11:21 a.m. The return receipt read, "COVID-19" and did not contain any other notations or signatures.
5. On March 29, 2022, the Commission mailed another notice via certified mail, restricted delivery, advising Respondent of her failure to file a 2018 Pre-Election CDR and that continued failure to file would result in additional late-filing penalties. According to the USPS, this letter was delivered and signed for by Respondent on April 1, 2022 at 1:25 p.m.
6. On April 1, 2022, Respondent paid the \$100.00 late-filing penalty associated with the 2018 Pre-Election CDR, but did not file the 2018 Pre-Election CDR.
7. On April 11, 2022, late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$10.00 per day.
8. On April 21, 2022, late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$100.00 per day.
9. In an April 27, 2022 first-class letter to Respondent, the Commission confirmed its receipt of Respondent's payment, informed her that remitting payment did not relieve her of her obligation to file the 2018 Pre-Election CDR, and notified her that continued failure to file would result in additional penalties and a complaint.
10. On May 8, 2023, following the filing of the Complaint, Respondent came to the Commission office with partial campaign bank account records. Commission staff assisted Respondent

¹ The July 2, 2021 letter also notified Respondent of her failure to timely file three (3) CDRs related to a 2016 election cycle. The late-filing penalties with regard to these CDRs have been handled through the Commission's typical noncompliance process and are therefore not discussed herein.

with filing the 2018 Pre-Election CDR, but was unable to further assist her based on the lack of complete campaign bank account records.

11. The Commission's investigation subsequently revealed Respondent's campaign bank account opened on August 15, 2018 and closed on May 29, 2019. Therefore, Respondent was required to file CDRs from 2018 Quarter 4 through 2019 Quarter 2.
12. The Commission's investigation further revealed that Respondent made a \$20.00 donation to her church on October 22, 2018 and, in an attempt to close out her campaign bank account, wrote a \$100.00 check to "cash" on November 16, 2018.
13. On August 16, 2024, Respondent filed all required CDRs with assistance from Commission staff.
14. During the Panel hearing, Respondent testified that the 2018 election was difficult for her. Respondent testified that once the election was over, she had no desire to revisit anything from the election cycle and therefore neglected her duties under the Ethics Act. Respondent acknowledged responsibility for her actions and asked the Panel for leniency if possible.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the Statements 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:
 - (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 or committee for the period ending twenty days before the election. The candidate or committee must maintain a current list during the period before the election commencing at the beginning of the calendar quarter of the election of all contributions of more than one hundred dollars and expenditures. The list must be open to public inspection upon request.

3. Section 8-13-1348(A) provides, in relevant part:

No candidate, committee, public official, or political party may use campaign funds to defray personal expenses which are unrelated to the campaign or the office if the candidate is an officeholder nor may these funds be converted to personal use. The prohibition of this subsection does not extend to the incidental personal use of campaign materials or equipment nor to an expenditure used to defray any ordinary expenses incurred in connection with an individual's duties as a holder of elective office.

4. Section 8-13-1370 provides, in relevant part:

(A) Contributions received by a candidate that are in excess of expenditures during an election cycle must be used by the candidate upon final disbursement: (1) to defray ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in connection with his duties in his public office; (2) to be contributed to an organization exempt from tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, a political party, or a committee; (3) to be maintained in the campaign account for a subsequent race for the same elective office; (4) to further the candidacy of the individual for a different elective office. However, after December 31, 1992, the funds must be used in a campaign for a different elective office only as provided for in Section 8-13-1352; (5) to be returned pro rata to all contributors; (6) to be contributed to the state's general fund; or (7) to be distributed using a combination of these options.

(B) No candidate may expend contributions for personal use.

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

. . . a person required to file a report or statement under this chapter who files a late 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.

6. Section 8-13-320 allows the Commission to require a civil penalty of up to \$2,000.00 for each violation of the Ethics Act.
7. Section 8-13-130 allows the Commission to “levy an enforcement or administrative fee on a person who is in 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 Barbara Bowman is in violation of one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1) for failing to file a 2018 Pre-Election CDR prior to the November 6, 2018 election; three (3) counts of Section 8-13-1308(B) for failing to file CDRs for 2018 Quarter 4, 2019 Quarter 1, and 2019 Quarter 2/Final; one (1) count of Section 8-13-1348(A) for donating \$20.00 to Respondent’s church; and one (1) count of Section 8-13-1370 for improperly disbursing unused campaign funds by writing a \$100.00 check payable to “cash.”

THEREFORE, the Panel hereby issues a Public Reprimand and orders Respondent to pay an administrative fee of \$1,000.00 to the Commission and \$120.00 to the Children’s Trust Fund within one (1) year from receipt of this Order. The Commission declines to assess any late-filing penalties provided Respondent makes such payments accordingly.

HOWEVER, pursuant to Section 8-13-320 of the Ethics Act, if the \$1,000.00 is not paid to the Commission and the \$120.00 is not paid to the Children’s Trust Fund, with proof of payment submitted to the Commission, within one (1) year from receipt of this Order, a judgment in the maximum amount possible of \$6,200.00 (\$4,900.00 for the Pre-Election CDR, \$100.00 for each remaining CDR, and \$1,000.00 for the 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 \$6,200.00, less any money paid, in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

FINALLY, Respondent Barbara Bowman 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 28th DAY OF April 2025.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION


MATTHEW N. TYLER, HEARING CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina