

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:
CASE NUMBER
C 2022-125

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Bill DeLoach
ADDRESS: P.O. Box 706
Blackville, SC 29817
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: Former Trustee – Barnwell County School District 19

Section 8-13-1140, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires the filing of an updated Statement of Economic Interests for the previous calendar year annually thereafter prior to March 30. Records in the State Ethics Commission indicate that the Respondent was required to file the 2019 Statement of Economic Interests.

Section 8-13-1308, S.C. Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires candidates to file Campaign Disclosures within ten (10) days of receiving or expending \$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 March 20, 2019 and March 25, 2019.

Respondent was reminded of the Statement of Economic Interests filing requirement by a certified letter dated March 30, 2022 and of the Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure by a certified letter dated September 27, 2022 as described in the attached. In addition, an email reminder was sent thirty days prior to the Statement of Economic Interests deadline. To date, a 2019 Statement of Economic Interests or Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure have not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1140, Section 8-13-1308(A)(1), and Section 8-13-1308(D)(1), SC 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
6th day of October, 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

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)	
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
)	
IN THE MATTER OF:)	
)	
Complaint C2022-125)	
)	
State Ethics Commission)	NOTICE OF HEARING
Complainant.)	
)	
Bill DeLoach)	
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 February 20, 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 A PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(A), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Bill DeLoach, candidate for Barnwell County School District 19 Board, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2019 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A).


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

That Bill DeLoach, candidate for Barnwell County School District 19 Board, did in

Richland County, fail to file a 2019 Statement of Economic Interests, in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

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 22nd day,
of July 2024.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Bill DeLoach, P.O. Box 706, Blackville, SC 29817 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 31st day of July 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 C2022-125)
)
 State Ethics Commission,)
 Complainant,)
)
 Bill DeLoach)
 Respondent.)
 _____)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

CONSENT ORDER

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on October 6, 2022. Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act), the Complaint against Bill DeLoach (Respondent) was considered by the Commission and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing. Prior to the call of the case, Respondent agreed to the following:

STATEMENTS OF FACT

1. Respondent was appointed to Barnwell County School District 19 Board of Trustees in 2017 and served until April 2019.
2. Respondent failed to file a 2019 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) prior to March 30, 2019.
3. Respondent ran for reelection in an April 19, 2019 election but was not successful.
4. Respondent failed to file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) prior to the April 19, 2019 election.
5. In a March 30, 2022 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to file the 2019 SEI.¹
6. According to the United States Postal Service (USPS), the certified letter was “Delivered, Individual Picked Up at Post Office” on April 5, 2022 at 3:25 p.m. Due to the illegibility of the

¹ The March 30, 2022 certified letter also referenced Respondent’s failure to file a 2018 SEI. This SEI is outside of the Commission’s four-year statute of limitations for complaints and is therefore being handled by the Commission’s typical noncompliance process.

signature on the return receipt, it is uncertain whether Respondent retrieved the letter.

7. In a September 27, 2022 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to file the 2019 Pre-Election CDR. According to USPS, the certified letter was “Delivered, Individual Picked Up at Post Office” on October 6, 2022. USPS records do not reveal whether Respondent signed for the letter.
8. Following the filing of the Complaint, the Commission’s investigation did not reveal any campaign contributions to or expenditures by the Respondent.
9. On June 25, 2024, Commission staff sent a copy of the Commission’s cover letter and complaint via email after attempting service by mail and hand-delivery. Respondent confirmed receipt of the email on June 27, 2024.
10. On July 9, 2024, following contact by a Commission investigator, Respondent filed his 2019 SEI and 2019 Pre-Election CDR and is now in compliance.

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) and a public official pursuant to Section 8-13-100(27). Therefore, the Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.
2. Section 8-13-1140 provides, in relevant part:

A person required to file a [SEI] under this chapter annually shall file . . . an updated statement for the previous calendar year, no later than noon on March 30 . . .
3. Section 8-13-1308(A) provides, in relevant part:

. . . 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.
4. Section 8-13-1510(A) provides, in relevant part:

. . . 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.

5. 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.

DISCUSSION

The Commission found probable cause to charge Respondent with one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1140 for failing to timely file a 2019 SEI and one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1308(A) for failing to timely file a 2019 Pre-Election CDR. Through this Consent Order, Respondent admits he violated the Ethics Act as outlined herein. In mitigation, Respondent states that he was appointed in 2017 and was not informed of the SEI filing requirements upon his appointment. He further states that he was confused by the campaign filing requirements and believed he was not required to file any disclosures because he did not have contributions or expenditures. Additionally, Respondent asserts that he does not recall receiving the Commission’s certified letters notifying him of his failure to file. The Commission acknowledges that it cannot confirm whether Respondent signed for either letter. Finally, Respondent states that he has served as a caretaker for his brother who has been in a nursing home since 2018 and has cared for his mother since she suffered a heart attack in June 2024, and that both of these events contributed to a delay in filing his reports after contact with Commission staff.

DISPOSITION

1. The Commission finds Respondent in violation of one (1) count of Section 8-13-1140 and one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308(A).
2. The Commission adopts the Statements of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Discussion, and Disposition

as agreed upon by the Respondent.

THEREFORE, the Commission hereby issues this Public Reprimand to Respondent and orders Respondent to pay the Commission, within nine (9) months from receipt of this Order, a late-filing penalty of \$200.00 (\$100.00 per report) and an administrative fee of \$500.00, for a total of \$700.00. The Commission declines to assess accrued penalties given the mitigation herein and because it cannot definitively establish service of the Commission's certified letters.

By executing this Consent Order, Respondent understands that he is not only admitting to a violation of the Ethics Act, but also confessing to a judgment of \$700.00 in the event he does not make payment as provided for in this Order, in which case the Commission shall file a Judgment against Respondent with the County Clerk of Court in Respondent's last known County of residence, who shall enter this Order in the amount of \$700.00 (less any money paid) in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 26th DAY OF November 2024.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION


SCOTT E. FRICK, CHAIR

Signed by:

E6372908547B448
BILL DELOACH
RESPONDENT