

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
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# STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:**  
**CASE NUMBER**  
C 2022-126

## COMPLAINT FORM

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

**RESPONDENT:** David Edmond  
**ADDRESS:** [REDACTED]  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** [REDACTED]  
**TITLE:** Candidate – Commissioner of Agriculture

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 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 letters dated April 15, 2022 and July 22, 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 8-13-1380(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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 C2022-126	)	
	)	
State Ethics Commission	)	<b>NOTICE OF HEARING</b>
Complainant.	)	
	)	
David Edmond	)	
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, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That David Edmond, candidate for Commissioner of Agriculture, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2018 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR), in violation of Section 8-13-1308.

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

That David Edmond, candidate for Commissioner of Agriculture, did in Richland County,

fail to file a 2022 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308.

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

That David Edmond, candidate for Commissioner of Agriculture, did in Richland County,  
fail to file a 2022 Quarter 4 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308.

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

That David Edmond, candidate for Commissioner of Agriculture, did in Richland County,  
fail to file a 2023 Quarter 1 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308.

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

That David Edmond, candidate for Commissioner of Agriculture, did in Richland County,  
fail to file a 2023 Quarter 2/Final CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308.

**COUNT SIX**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That David Edmond, candidate for Commissioner of Agriculture, did in Richland County,  
fail to report two (2) campaign contributions from William P. Kremil totaling \$150.00, in violation  
of Section 8-13-1308.

**COUNT SEVEN**  
**IMPROPER CASH WITHDRAW**  
**SECTION 8-13-1348, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That David Edmond, candidate for Commissioner of Agriculture, did in Richland County,  
make cash withdrawals over \$25.00, in violation of Section 8-13-1348.

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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 David Edmond, 309 Galbra Street, Columbia, SC 29209 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**

Columbia, South Carolina

State Ethics Commission

(803) 253-4192

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 COUNTY OF RICHLAND )  
 )  
 IN THE MATTER OF: )  
 COMPLAINT C2022-126 )  
 )  
 State Ethics Commission, )  
 Complainant, )  
 )  
 David Edmond, )  
 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 12, 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 David Edmond (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 an unsuccessful Green Party candidate for Commissioner of Agriculture in a November 6, 2018 general election.
2. Respondent failed to file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) prior to the November 6, 2018 election.
3. In an April 15, 2022 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to timely file a 2018 Pre-Election CDR. After reviewing the delivery of the certified letter and seeing "Covid 19" written on the return receipt, the Commission resent the letter via first-class mail with a United States Postal Service (USPS) tracking number on July 22, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The July 22, 2022 letter also informed Respondent of his failure to file a 2022 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI). Respondent filed the 2022 SEI on August 1, 2022 after receiving the penalty letter. The 2022 SEI late-filing penalty is being handled by the Commission's typical noncompliance process and therefore not addressed herein.

4. On July 23, 2022, the first-class letter was delivered in or at Respondent's mailbox at 12:02 p.m. according to USPS.
5. After the filing of the Complaint, the Commission's investigation revealed that Respondent did not have a campaign bank account or expend any funds related to his 2018 campaign.
6. The Commission's investigation further revealed that Respondent was an unsuccessful Green Party candidate in the November 8, 2022 election for the Commissioner of Agriculture. Respondent opened a campaign bank account for his 2022 election cycle on July 21, 2022.
7. The campaign bank records revealed that Respondent withdrew \$90.00 cash from his campaign account on July 21, 2022 and \$100.00 cash on August 14, 2022, both times to purchase campaign business cards from Franklin's Printing. The campaign bank records further revealed that Respondent loaned \$175.00 to his campaign on August 15, 2022.
8. On April 11, 2023, Respondent's campaign bank account reached a zero-dollar balance when he transferred the remaining on-hand contribution balance of \$111.02 to his personal account as reimbursement for the August 15, 2022 personal loan.
9. As of July 19, 2024, Respondent filed all requisite CDRs with the help of Commission staff 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) of the Ethics Act. Therefore, the Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.
2. Section 8-13-1308 provides, in relevant part:
  - (A) ...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 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.

3. Section 8-13-1348(C)(1) provides, in relevant part:

An expenditure of more than twenty-five dollars drawn upon a campaign account must be made by: (a) a written instrument; (b) debit card; or (c) online transfers. . .

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 8-13-320(10)(I) allows the Commission to assess a civil penalty of up to \$2,000.00 for violations of the Ethics Act and permits the Commission to require forfeiture of the value of any profits, receipts, or gifts obtained in violation thereof.

6. 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 five (5) counts of violating Section 8-13-1308 for failing to file 2018 Pre-Election, 2022 Pre-Election, 2022 Quarter 4, 2023 Quarter 1, and 2023 Quarter 2 CDRs; and one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1348 for using cash withdrawn from his campaign bank account to pay two (2) campaign expenditures,

each exceeding twenty-five dollars.<sup>2</sup>

Through this Consent Order, Respondent acknowledges he violated the Ethics Act as described herein. In mitigation, Respondent states that he does not recall receiving the Commission's July 22, 2022 first-class letter, but he acknowledges receiving the Commission's Complaint. Additionally, Respondent states that he is not good with paperwork and did not have assistance with managing his campaign. Finally, respondent asserts that he was unaware of the restrictions regarding using cash to cover expenditures.

#### DISPOSITION

1. The Commission hereby finds Respondent in violation of five (5) counts of Section 8-13-1308 and one (1) count of Section 8-13-1348.
2. The Commission hereby adopts the Statements of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Discussion, and Disposition as agreed upon by the Respondent.

THEREFORE, the Commission hereby issues a Public Reprimand and orders the Respondent to pay the Commission, within twelve (12) months from receipt of this Order, a late-filing penalty of \$5,400.00 (\$5,000.00 for his 2018 Pre-Election CDR and \$100.00 for the remaining CDRs); a reduced civil penalty of \$150.00 (the total cash payment amount expended in violation of Section 8-13-1348); and an administrative fee of \$500.00, for a total of \$6,050.00. The Commission declines to assess additional civil penalties for Respondent's violation of Section 8-13-1348 in exchange for him entering into this Consent Order.

By executing this Consent Order, Respondent understands that he is not only admitting to

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<sup>2</sup> The Commission also found probable cause to charge Respondent with two (2) counts of violating Section 8-13-1308 for failing to report two (2) campaign contributions totaling \$150.00. However, Respondent has since disclosed these contributions, and the Commission therefore declines to proceed as to this count.

violations of the Ethics Act, but also confessing to a judgment of \$6,050.00 (less any money paid to the Commission) in the event he does not make full and timely payment as provided for in this Order. In that event, the Commission shall file a Judgment against Respondent in the Clerk of Court's Office in the County of Respondent's last known residence. Upon said filing, the Clerk of Court shall enter this Order in the amount of \$6,050.00 (less any money paid to the Commission) in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 11<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



NEAL D. TRUSLOW, VICE-CHAIR

Signed by:  
*David Edmond*

DAVID EDMOND  
RESPONDENT