

# STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:**  
**CASE NUMBER**  
C 2023-028

## COMPLAINT FORM

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

**RESPONDENT:** Natasha N. Green  
**ADDRESS:** [REDACTED]  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** [REDACTED]  
**TITLE:** Candidate – Town of Yemassee Council

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 13, 2021 and October 18, 2021.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by letters dated June 7, 2022 and July 7, 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 6th day of March, 2023

[REDACTED]  
Meghan L. Walker, Executive Director

[REDACTED]  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission expires 01/27/26

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**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND ) BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
) )  
IN THE MATTER OF: ) )  
) )  
Complaint C2023-028 ) )  
) )  
State Ethics Commission ) **NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Complainant. ) )  
) )  
Natasha N. Green ) )  
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, August 15, 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 A PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(D)(1), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Natasha N. Green, Candidate for Yemassee Town Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2021 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR), in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1).

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

That Natasha N. Green, Candidate for Yemassee Town Council, did in Richland County,

fail to file a 2021 Final CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

**COUNT THREE**  
**FAILURE TO DISCLOSE A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Natasha N. Green, Candidate for Yemassee Town Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 5, 2021 campaign contribution from Natasha Green in the amount of 82.77, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

**COUNT FOUR**  
**FAILURE TO DISCLOSE A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Natasha N. Green, Candidate for Yemassee Town Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 20, 2021 campaign contribution from Natasha Green in the amount of \$447.77, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

**COUNT FIVE**  
**FAILURE TO DISCLOSE A CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Natasha N. Green, Candidate for Yemassee Town Council, did in Richland County, fail to report a September 3, 2021 campaign expenditure to City of Yemassee in the amount of \$150.00, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

**COUNT SIX**  
**FAILURE TO DISCLOSE A CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Natasha N. Green, Candidate for Yemassee Town Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 5, 2021 campaign expenditure to Signs.com in the amount of \$82.77, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

**COUNT SEVEN**  
**FAILURE TO DISCLOSE A CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Natasha N. Green, Candidate for Yemassee Town Council, did in Richland County, fail to report an October 20, 2021 campaign expenditure to Signs.com in the amount of \$447.77, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

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

That Natasha N. Green, Candidate for Yemassee Town Council, did in Richland County, fail to use a campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

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.).

**[THIS SPACE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]**

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 16<sup>th</sup> day,  
of November 2023.

**Certificate of Service by Certified Mail**

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Natasha Green, 9347 Burtons Ferry Highway, Allendale, SC 29810 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November 2023, 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 C2023-028 )  
 )  
 State Ethics Commission, )  
 Complainant, )  
 )  
 Natasha N. Green, )  
 Respondent. )  
 \_\_\_\_\_ )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**CONSENT ORDER**

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on March 6, 2023. Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act), the Complaint against Natasha N. Green (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 entry of the following:

**STATEMENTS OF FACT**

1. Respondent was an unsuccessful candidate for Yemassee Town Council in a November 2, 2021 election.
2. Respondent failed to file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) prior to the election.
3. In a June 7, 2022 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of her failure to timely a 2021 Pre-Election CDR. This letter was subsequently returned to the Commission as unclaimed.
4. On July 7, 2022, the Commission remailed the June 7, 2022 letter via certified mail. According to the United States Postal Service (USPS), this letter was picked up at the Post Office by an individual on July 19, 2022.
5. On July 29, 2022, late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$10.00 per day.
6. On August 8, 2022, late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$100.00 per day.
7. Following the filing of the Complaint, a Commission Investigator contacted Respondent. Respondent informed the Investigator that she was unaware of the requirement to file CDRs with

the Commission and that she used personal funds to make three expenditures during her campaign: (1) \$150.00 for the filing fee to the Town of Yemassee on September 3, 2021; (2) \$82.77 for campaign signs to Signs.com on October 5, 2021; and (3) \$447.77 for campaign signs to Signs.com on October 20, 2021.

8. On October 3, 2023, after receiving assistance from Commission staff, Respondent filed a Pre-Election CDR and a Final CDR disclosing the aforementioned campaign activity.

### 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:

(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 . . .

...

(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 8-13-1312 provides, in relevant part:

... expenses paid on behalf of a candidate or committee must be drawn from the campaign account and issued on a check signed by the candidate or a duly authorized officer of a committee. All contributions received by the candidate or committee, directly or indirectly, must be deposited in the campaign account by the candidate or committee within ten days after receipt. All contributions received by an agent of a candidate or committee within must be forwarded to the candidate or committee not later than five days after receipt . . .

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 . . .

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.
6. Section 8-13-320(10) allows the Commission to assess a civil penalty up to \$2,000 for each violation of the Ethics Act.

### DISCUSSION

The Commission found probable cause to charge Respondent with one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1308(D)(1) for failing to file a 2021 Pre-Election CDR; one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1308(B) for failing to file a 2021 Final CDR; and one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1312 for failing to open a campaign bank account.<sup>1</sup> The Commission notes that Respondent was required to file a Final CDR because her October 20, 2021 expenditure could not have been disclosed on her 2021 Pre-Election CDR, which was due between October 13, 2021 and October 18, 2021.

Through this Consent Order, Respondent acknowledges she violated the Ethics Act in these instances. In mitigation, Respondent states that she does not recall receiving the Commission’s July 2021 correspondence or the Commission complaint prior to contact from the Commission Investigator. Respondent states that she moved during the relevant time period and opines that this may be why she did not receive anything from the Commission. Respondent further states that 2021 was her first run for public office and that she signed up to run in a spur of the moment decision just minutes before the filing deadline. Respondent further offers an apology for her errors and states that it was not her

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<sup>1</sup> The Commission also found probable cause to believe Respondent violated Section 8-13-1308(F) of the Ethics Act when she failed to disclose the campaign expenditures referenced in paragraph seven (7) of the Statement of Facts. However, given that Respondent has since disclosed this campaign activity, and because Respondent is being charged with failing to file the corresponding CDR, the Commission declines to proceed on these counts.

intention to hide anything from the Commission.

**DISPOSITION**

1. The Commission hereby finds Respondent in violation of the Ethics Act as set forth herein.
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 one (1) year from receipt of this Order, a late-filing penalty of \$200.00 (\$100.00 per late report); a reduced civil penalty of \$200.00; and an administrative fee of \$400.00, for a total of \$800.00.

By executing this Consent Order, Respondent understands that she is not only admitting to violations of the Ethics Act, but also confessing to a judgment of \$800.00 (less any money paid to the Commission) in the event she 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 \$800.00 (less any money paid to the Commission) in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 9<sup>th</sup> DAY OF February 2024.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

  
SCOTT E. FRICK, CHAIR

  
NATASHA N. GREEN  
RESPONDENT