

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
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FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:

CASE NUMBER

C 2023 - 088

COMPLAINT FORM

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

**RESPONDENT:** David Arnold  
**ADDRESS:** [REDACTED]  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** (803) 606-6707  
**TITLE:** Candidate – Lexington County Sheriff

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 no later than July 10, 2020, October 10, 2020, January 10, 2021, April 10, 2021, July 10, 2021, October 10, 2021, January 10, 2022, April 10, 2022, July 10, 2022, October 10, 2022, January 10, 2023, and April 10, 2023. Respondent was sent an email reminder thirty days before each Campaign Disclosure deadline from July 2020 through October 2021 and was sent an email reminder thirty days before and ten days before each Campaign Disclosure deadline after October 2021.

Respondent failed to properly itemize the complete address of multiple contributions and expenditures in accordance with Section 8-13-1308(F).

Section 8-13-1314, S.C. Code Ann., 1976, as amended, states that a candidate may not accept contributions from a person aggregating \$1,000.00 in an election cycle. The Respondent accepted \$3,000 in contributions from Ray Lord and \$2,000 from SDR Towing and Recovery, LLC in the June 9, 2020 election cycle.

Section 8-13-1348 of the South Carolina Code of laws, 1976, as amended, prohibits a candidate from using campaign funds to defray personal expenses which are unrelated to the campaign. According to the Quarter 3 2019, Quarter 4 2019, and Quarter 1 2020 Campaign Disclosures, the Respondent made expenditures to Pitt Stop, Circle K, Shell, BP, Refuel, Rainbow Gas, Mobil Fuel, and Citgo totaling \$902.47. The Respondent was instructed to provide a mileage log in connection with campaign travel, reimburse the campaign account from personal funds, or donate to the Children’s Trust Fund or a 501 (C)(3) if the campaign account is closed. The Respondent has not provided a mileage log, reimbursed the campaign account, or provided proof of a donation. In addition, the Respondent was asked to clarify multiple expenditures that appeared to be personal, but he did not provide any information.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirements by letters dated October 6, 2022 as described in the attached. To date, a properly completed Quarter 2 2020, Quarter 3 2020, Quarter 4 2020, Quarter 1 2021, Quarter 2 2021, Quarter 3 2021, Quarter 4 2021, Quarter 1 2022, Quarter 2 2022, Quarter 3 2022, Quarter 4 2022, or Quarter 1 2023 Campaign Disclosure have not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B), Section 8-13-1308 (F), Section 8-13-1314, and Section 8-13-1348, 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 Walker Dayson 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 July, 2023

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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 C2023-088	)	
	)	
State Ethics Commission	)	<b>NOTICE OF HEARING</b>
Complainant.	)	
	)	
David Arnold	)	
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 19, 2026 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 CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That David Arnold, candidate for Lexington County Sheriff, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2020 Quarter 3 Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR), in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That David Arnold, candidate for Lexington County Sheriff, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2020 Quarter 4/Final CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

**COUNT THREE**  
**ACCEPTANCE OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION EXCEEDING LIMITATION**  
**SECTION 8-13-1314(A)(1)(c), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That David Arnold, candidate for Lexington County Sheriff, did in Richland County, accept a campaign contribution from SDR Towing and Recovery in the amount of \$2,000.00, exceeding the contribution limit of \$1,000.00, in violation of Section 8-13-1314(A)(1)(c).

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

That David Arnold, candidate for Lexington County Sheriff, did in Richland County, use campaign funds to for personal purchases, in violation of Section 8-13-1348(A).

**COUNT FIVE**  
**CASH WITHDRAWAL EXCEEDING PETTY CASH LIMITATION**  
**SECTION 8-13-1348(E), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That David Arnold, candidate for Lexington County Sheriff, did in Richland County, withdraw cash, exceeding the \$100 limit allowed to replenish petty funds, from his campaign bank account eleven (11) times, totaling \$7,860.00, in violation of Section 8-13-1348(E).

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 28<sup>th</sup> day,  
of July 2025.

*Certificate of Service by Certified Mail*

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT David Arnold, 226 Pewter Drive, Lexington, SC 29072 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of July 2025, 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 C2023-088 )  
  
State Ethics Commission, )  
Complainant, )  
  
David Arnold, )  
Respondent. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**CONSENT ORDER**

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on July 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 David Arnold (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 candidate for Lexington County Sheriff in a June 9, 2020, primary election.
2. Prior to the filing of the Complaint, Respondent's most recently filed Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) was a 2020 Pre-Election CDR filed on June 9, 2020, showing a balance of \$8,634.20 in contributions. Respondent thereafter failed to file any additional quarterly CDRs.
3. In an October 6, 2022, certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to file a Quarter 3 2020 CDR and a Quarter 4 2020/Final CDR.<sup>1</sup>
4. In a separate October 6, 2022, letter, the Commission advised Respondent that a \$2,000.00 contribution he received on February 21, 2020 from SDR Towing and Recovery, LLC was

<sup>1</sup> The Commission's letter also notified Respondent of his failure to file additional CDRs. As explained herein, the Commission's investigation revealed that Respondent's campaign bank account was closed on November 25, 2020. Accordingly, he was not required to file CDRs beyond Quarter 4 2020.

over the contribution limit. The Commission instructed Respondent to refund the excess amount, which was \$1,000.00.<sup>2</sup>

5. A third letter, also dated October 6, 2022, notified Respondent that expenditures on his CDRs appeared personal in nature, to include purchases for food and gas. The Commission asked Respondent to explain how the expenditures were related to his campaign and to provide a mileage log.
6. According to the United States Postal Service (USPS), the letters were “Delivered, Left with Individual” on October 8, 2022, at 3:13 p.m.
7. On October 18, 2022, late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$20.00 per day (\$10.00 per CDR).
8. On October 28, 2022, late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$200.00 per day (\$100.00 per CDR).
9. Following the filing of the complaint, Respondent’s campaign bank account records were subpoenaed, revealing the following relevant information:
  - a. Respondent’s campaign bank account was opened on July 6, 2019. The campaign bank account reached a negative balance on July 28, 2020, and was force-closed by the bank on November 25, 2020.
  - b. During the 2020 election cycle, Respondent received contributions totaling \$130,000.00. Of this amount, Respondent personally contributed approximately \$90,000.00.
  - c. Respondent accepted a \$2,000.00 campaign contribution from SDR Towing and Recovery, LLC on February 21, 2020.
  - d. Respondent withdrew more than \$100.00 from his campaign bank account as follows: (i) \$700.00 on September 23, 2019; (ii) \$700.00 on October 21, 2019; (iii) \$700.00 on October 29, 2019; (iv) \$600.00 on November 26, 2019; (v) \$200.00 on February 20, 2020; (vi) \$960.00 on March 30, 2020; (vii) \$600.00 on April 10,

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<sup>2</sup> The Commission’s excessive contribution letter also contained similar information related to a \$3,000.00 contribution received from Ray Lord on June 25, 2019. The Commission’s investigation revealed Respondent actually received three (3) separate \$1,000.00 contributions – one from Ray Lord, one from Ashley Lord, and one from the Lord Law Firm, all of which were permissible.

*JK #2*

2020; (viii) \$800.00 on April 13, 2020; (ix) \$800.00 on April 20, 2020; (x) \$800.00 on June 2, 2020; and (xi) \$1,000.00 on June 4, 2020.

In his CDRs, Respondent disclosed each of these withdrawals as repayments of a personal loan to his campaign.

- e. Respondent made sixty (68) expenditures for fuel at multiple gas stations between August 27, 2019, and June 22, 2020, totaling \$1,913.08. Respondent did not maintain a mileage log related to these purchases.
- f. Between September 9, 2019, and July 31, 2020, Respondent made eighty-five (85) expenditures for food totaling \$3,896.01 that were not associated with a “political event” as required by Section 8-13-1348. Of these, forty-six (46) expenditures were to Bitesquad and GrubHub, for a total of \$2,193.38. The remaining expenditures were to Burger King, California Dreaming, Catch Seafood, Chick-fil-A, Cracker Barrel, Dominos Pizza, Fatz Café, Grouchos, Lizards Thicket, McDonalds, Rush’s, Shealy’s, Sweet Magnolias, Taco Bell, Texas Roadhouse, Tsunami, and Zaxbys.

In his CDRs, Respondent identified these transactions as “meeting,” “campaign meeting,” “food for volunteers,” “hosting campaign dinner,” “lunch meeting,” “campaign dinner,” or “working lunch with campaign staff.”

- g. Respondent made the following expenditures from his campaign bank account for a total of \$5,578.27:

Date	Amount	Vendor	Description
Aug. 27, 2019	\$46.16	Long’s Drugstore	Unknown
Sept. 11, 2019	\$135.00	Doctor’s Care	Volunteer Used Card
Sept. 13, 2019	\$125.00	MedCare Express	Volunteer Used Card
Sept. 17, 2019	\$97.48	Power Airfrye	Volunteer Used Card
Sept. 23, 2019	\$371.36	Walgreen’s	Repayment of Loan
Sept. 25, 2019	\$250.00	Gaskin Psychiatry	Repayment of Loan
Sept. 26, 2019	\$500.00	Dick Smith Ford	Repayment of Loan
Sept. 26, 2019	\$128.22	Long’s Drugstore	Repayment of Loan
Nov. 22, 2019	\$13.00	Nick’s Carwash	Car Wash
Feb. 18, 2020	\$15.00	Nick’s Carwash	Car Wash
Mar. 19, 2020	\$9.05	Long’s Drugstore	Unknown
Mar. 30, 2020	\$15.00	Nick’s Carwash	Car Wash
Apr. 7, 2020	\$1,311.78	Shooter’s Choice	Used Wrong Card
Apr. 8, 2020	\$775.44	Craig Firearm	Used Wrong Card
Jun. 5, 2020	\$1,423.08	Shooter’s Choice	Used Wrong Card
Jun. 5, 2020	\$29.82	Minnie’s Auto	Oil Change for Volunteer

10. With the assistance of Commission staff, Respondent has filed all requisite CDRs and made

*JA #3*

the necessary disclosures therein.

### **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. Because his campaign bank account closed on November 25, 2020, Respondent was required to file a Quarter 3 2020 CDR and a Quarter 4/Final 2020 CDR pursuant to Section 8-13-1308(B), which provides, in relevant part:

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.

3. Respondent was prohibited from using campaign funds for personal expenditures pursuant to Section 8-13-1348(A), which provides:

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. Respondent was prohibited from withdrawing more than \$100.00 in cash from his campaign bank account pursuant to Section 8-13-1348(E), which provides:

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

*JA #4*

5. Respondent was prohibited from accepting a \$2,000.00 campaign contribution from SDR

Towing and Recovery pursuant to Section 8-13-1314(A), which provides, in relevant part:

Within an election cycle, a candidate or anyone acting on his behalf shall not solicit or accept, and a person shall not give or offer to give to a candidate or person acting on the candidate's behalf: . . . (1) a contribution which exceeds: . . . (c) one thousand dollars in the case of a candidate for any other office.

6. In accordance with Section 8-13-1510(A), Respondent has accrued \$10,000.00 in late-filing penalties (\$5,000.00 for the Quarter 3 2020 CDR and \$5,000.00 for the Quarter 4 2020/Final CDR):

. . . 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.

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.
8. Section 8-13-320(10)(l) allows the Commission to assess a \$2,000.00 civil penalty for violations of the Ethics Act and to require the forfeiture of any profits obtained in violation thereof.

### DISCUSSION

The Commission found probable cause to charge Respondent with two (2) counts of Section 8-13-1308(B) for failing to file a Quarter 3 2020 CDR and a Quarter 4 2020/Final CDR, one (1) count of Section 8-13-1348(A) for using campaign funds for personal expenditures, one (1) count of Section 8-13-1348(E) for withdrawing more than \$100.00 cash from his campaign bank account, and one (1) count of Section 8-13-1314(A) for accepting a \$2,000.00 campaign

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contribution from SDR Towing and Recovery.<sup>3</sup>

Through this Consent Order, Respondent acknowledges he violated the Ethics Act in each of these instances. In mitigation, Respondent states that when he received the Commission's October 6, 2022, letters, he provided them to his campaign manager, Scott Malyreck. Respondent believed the situation was handled until he received the Complaint. Respondent states, and the Commission has confirmed, that Malyreck died on August 9, 2023, which was shortly after the Complaint was filed. Respondent states that he therefore does not have access to most of his campaign records.

Respondent further states that he loaned nearly \$90,000.00 in personal funds to his campaign. Respondent states that Malyreck designated these funds as personal contributions in his CDRs, but that he actually intended for the funds to be loans so that he could reimburse himself. Respondent states he was unaware that he could not spend money directly from the campaign bank account for loan repayment. Respondent also states that he often used campaign funds to purchase gas for himself and for volunteers working on his campaign because he was unaware that a mileage log was required. As to the "volunteer used card" expenditures itemized in paragraph 9(g) in the Statement of Facts, Respondent states that a volunteer had access to his campaign bank account debit card and that the volunteer used this card for impermissible purchases without his knowledge.

With regard to the food and beverage purchases, Respondent believed that he was permitted to purchase food for himself and his volunteers as they had meetings and worked on his campaign. The Commission notes that using campaign funds for food and beverages is only permitted when consumed at a specific campaign event. See SECAO2016-004 ("it is now and has

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<sup>3</sup> The Commission also found probable cause to believe Respondent failed to disclose a number of contributions and expenditures in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F). However, given that Respondent has since disclosed this information, the Commission declines to proceed on these charges.

JAL # 6

always been the Commission's position that ... [p]urchasing normal daily meals with campaign funds while traveling on campaign related business either before or after an election is prohibited. Such expenditures are personal." Respondent wishes to emphasize that he had no nefarious intent with regard to his campaign bank account. Although he retained a campaign manager and believed his filings were being completed in a timely manner, Respondent accepts full responsibility for the errors.

**DISPOSITION**

1. The Commission finds Respondent in violation of two (2) counts of Section 8-13-1308(B), one (1) count of Section 8-13-1348(A), one (1) count of Section 8-13-1348(E), and one (1) count of Section 8-13-1314(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 and orders Respondent to pay the Commission, within six (6) months from receipt of this Order, a reduced late-filing penalty of \$1,500.00 (\$750.00 for each CDR), a reduced civil penalty of \$1,500.00 (\$500.00 each for the violations of Section 8-13-1348(A), Section 8-13-1348(E), and Section 8-13-1314(A)) and an administrative fee of \$600.00, for a total of \$3,600.00.

The Commission further orders Respondent to pay \$1,000.00 to the Children's Trust Fund (CTF) for the excessive contribution, and to provide proof of such payment to the Commission within six (6) months from receipt of this Order. The Commission declines to order additional reimbursement given that Respondent loaned his campaign approximately \$90,000.00 in personal funds.

By executing this Consent Order, Respondent understands that he is confessing to a

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judgment of \$4,600.00 if 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 \$4,600.00 (less any money paid) in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF December 2025.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

  
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DocuSigned by:  
  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID ARNOLD  
RESPONDENT