

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:

CASE NUMBER

C 2024-008

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Isaac Wilson, III
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: Candidate – Florence City 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 an Initial Campaign Disclosure was due no later than April 4, 2022, and a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure was due between May 24, 2022 and May 30, 2022. Respondent was sent an email reminder thirty days before and ten days before the Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure deadline.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by a certified letter dated January 12, 2023 as described in the attached. To date, a properly completed Initial Campaign Disclosure and Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure have 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 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
8th day of January, 2024

[REDACTED]
Meghan Walker Dayson, 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

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)	
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
)	
IN THE MATTER OF:)	
)	
Complaint C2024-005)	
)	
State Ethics Commission)	NOTICE OF HEARING
Complainant.)	
)	
Isaac Wilson, III)	
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 INITIAL CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(A), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Isaac Wilson, III, candidate for Florence City Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2022 Initial Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR), in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A).

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

That Isaac Wilson, III, candidate for Florence City Council, did in Richland County, fail to file 2022 Quarter 1 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Isaac Wilson, III, candidate for Florence City Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2022 Pre-Election CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D).

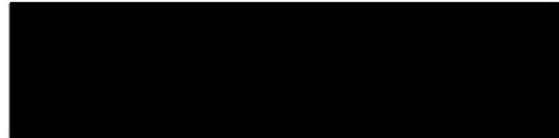
COUNT FIVE
FAILURE TO MAKE EXPENDITURE FROM CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Isaac Wilson, III, candidate for Florence City Council, did in Richland County, fail to make campaign expenditures through his 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 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 Isaac Wilson, III, 1015 Ingram Street, Florence, SC 29501 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.



Rachael O'Bryan, Administrative Assistant
State Ethics Commission

Columbia, South Carolina

(803) 253-4192

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2024-005)

State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant,)

CONSENT ORDER

Isaac Wilson, III)
Respondent.)

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on January 8, 2024. Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act), the Complaint against Isaac Wilson, III (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. On March 25, 2022, Respondent filed a Statement of Intention of Candidacy (SIC) for Florence City Council in a June 14, 2022 primary election. Respondent paid the accompanying \$633.00 filing fee using personal funds. Respondent's SIC listed his address as 1015 Ingram Street in Florence, SC.
2. Respondent did not file an Initial Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) within ten (10) days of paying the \$633.00 filing fee.
3. Respondent did not file a Pre-Election CDR prior to the June 14, 2022 election.
4. In a January 12, 2023 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to file a 2022 Initial CDR and a 2022 Pre-Election CDR.
5. According to the United States Postal Service, the letter was delivered to 1015 Ingram Street, Florence, SC on February 2, 2023 at 2:05 p.m.
6. Following the filing of the Complaint, the Commission's investigation revealed that Respondent

purchased yard signs for \$1,646.50 on March 29, 2022 and that he used personal funds to do so. The Commission's investigation further revealed that Respondent failed to open a campaign bank account.

7. On November 4, 2024, Respondent came into compliance by filing all required CDRs.

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:
 - (A) Upon the receipt or expenditure of campaign contributions or the making of independent expenditures totaling an accumulated aggregate of five hundred dollars or more, a candidate or committee required to file a statement of organization pursuant to Section 8-13-1304(A) must file an initial certified campaign report within ten days of these initial receipts and expenditures. However, a candidate who does not spend or 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.
...
 - (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:

... Except as otherwise provided under Section 8-13-1348(C), 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 fully 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. ...
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 8-13-1308(A) for failing to timely file a 2022 Initial CDR on or before April 4, 2022;¹ one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1308(D)(1) for failing to file a 2022 Pre-Election CDR fifteen (15) days prior to his primary election; and (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1312 for failing to open a campaign bank account.² Through this Consent Order, Respondent admits he violated the Ethics Act as outlined herein. In mitigation, Respondent asserts that 1015 Ingram Street was his grandmother’s address and that he resided with her until October 2022, when he moved. Respondent states he did not reside with his grandmother when the Commission sent its January 12, 2023 certified letter and, therefore, he did not receive the letter.

DISPOSITION

1. The Commission finds Respondent in violation of one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308(A), one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1), and one (1) count of Section 8-13-1312.

¹ The Commission also found probable cause to believe Respondent violated Section 8-13-1308(B) when he failed to file a Quarter 1 2022 CDR. Given that the campaign activity encompassed in the reporting period for the Initial CDR is identical to the reporting period for the Quarter 1 2022 CDR, the Commission finds a Quarter 1 2022 CDR was not required and therefore declines to proceed on this charge.

² The Commission also found probable cause to believe Respondent violated Section 8-13-1308(F) for failing to properly disclose campaign contributions and expenditures. However, given that Respondent has since disclosed these contributions and expenditures, the Commission declines to proceed on these charges.

2. The Commission adopts the Statements of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Discussion, and Disposition as agreed upon by the Respondent.

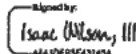
THEREFORE, the Commission hereby issues this Public Reprimand to Respondent and orders Respondent to pay the Commission, within nine (9) months from receipt of this Order, a late-filing penalty of \$200.00 (\$100.00 for each CDR),³ a civil penalty of \$100.00 for his failure to open a campaign bank account, and an administrative fee of \$600.00, for a total of \$900.00.

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 \$900.00 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 \$900.00 (less any money paid) in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 11th DAY OF February 2025.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

NEAL D. TRUSLOW, VICE-CHAIR

Signed by:

ISAAC WILSON, III
RESPONDENT

³ Pursuant to Section 8-13-1510(A), Respondent's late-filing penalties are limited to \$100.00 per CDR because Respondent did not receive certified notice from the Commission of his failure to timely file.