

# STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:**  
**CASE NUMBER**  
C 2024-007

## COMPLAINT FORM

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

**RESPONDENT:** Kim T. Gidron  
**ADDRESS:** P.O. Box 843  
Elloree, SC 29047  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** [REDACTED]  
**TITLE:** Council Member – Town of Elloree

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 2023 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 October 13, 2021 and October 18, 2021.

Respondent was reminded of the Pre-Election filing requirement by a certified letter dated January 3, 2023 as described in the attached. To date, a properly completed Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure or 2023 Statement of Economic Interests have not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1140, 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 17th day of January 2024

[REDACTED]  
Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director

[REDACTED]  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission expires 01/24/26

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 C2024-007	)	
	)	
State Ethics Commission	)	<b>NOTICE OF HEARING</b>
Complainant.	)	
	)	
Kim T. Gidron	)	
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, June 19, 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 Kim T. Gidron, Town of Elloree Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2021 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A).

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


That Kim T. Gidron, Town of Elloree Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2023 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI), in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

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

That Kim T. Gidron, Town of Elloree Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2024 SEI, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> day,  
of January 2025.

*Certificate of Service by Certified Mail*

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Kim T. Gidron, P.O. Box 843, Elloree, SC 29047 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February 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**

Columbia, South Carolina

State Ethics Commission

(803) 253-4192

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
COUNTY OF RICHLAND	)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
	)	
IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
Complaint C2024-007	)	
	)	
State Ethics Commission	)	<b>AMENDED</b>
Complainant.	)	<b>NOTICE OF HEARING</b>
	)	
Kim T. Gidron	)	
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 21, 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 Kim T. Gidron, Town of Ellore Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2021 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A).

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

That Kim T. Gidron, Town of Ellore Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2023 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI), in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

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

That Kim T. Gidron, Town of Elloree Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2024 SEI, 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.

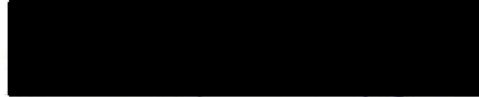


Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director  
State Ethics Commission

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day,  
of March 2025.

*Certificate of Service by Certified Mail*

I hereby certify that a copy of this **AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Kim T. Gidron, P.O. Box 843, Elloree, SC 29047 by depositing said **AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March 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

Columbia, South Carolina

(803) 253-4192

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND )  
IN THE MATTER OF: )  
COMPLAINT C2024-007 )  
State Ethics Commission, )  
Complainant. )  
Kim T. Gidron, )  
Respondent. )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**DECISION AND ORDER**

Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act of 1991 (Ethics Act), the Commission reviewed the above-captioned Complaint against Kim T. Gidron (Respondent) and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing. Present at the hearing on August 21, 2025, were Commissioners Bryant S. Caldwell, Sara Parrish, and F. Xavier Starks, Hearing Panel Chair.<sup>1</sup> Respondent was duly notified, but did not appear. The Commission was represented by Courtney M. Laster, Esq. The following charges were considered: one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1308(A) for failing to file a 2021 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) and two (2) counts of violating Section 8-13-1140 for failing to file 2023 and 2024 Statements of Economic Interests (SEI).

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Having carefully reviewed the evidence presented, the Panel finds as fact:

1. Respondent has served on Ellore Town Council since 2014. Most recently, Respondent was a successful candidate in a November 2, 2021 election.
2. Respondent did not file a Pre-Election CDR prior to the November 2, 2021 election.
3. In a January 3, 2023 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of her failure to file

<sup>1</sup> Commissioners Caldwell and Parrish appeared virtually.

JX #1

- a 2021 Pre-Election CDR.
4. According to the United States Postal Service, the certified letter was delivered to Respondent's address of record on January 17, 2023 at 12:56 p.m. Respondent signed for the certified letter.
  5. On January 27, 2023, late-filing penalties with regard to the 2021 Pre-Election CDR began to accrue at \$10.00 per day.
  6. On February 6, 2023, late-filing penalties with regard to the 2021 Pre-Election CDR began to accrue at \$100.00 per day.
  7. Respondent did not file a SEI on or before March 30, 2023.
  8. The Complaint was filed on January 17, 2024 and contained allegations that Respondent failed to timely file a 2021 Pre-Election CDR and a 2023 SEI.
  9. Respondent did not file a SEI on or before March 30, 2024.
  10. Following the filing of the Complaint, a Commission Investigator contacted Respondent and asked if she had received the Complaint. Respondent stated that it was possible because she had received numerous letters from the Commission. Out of an abundance of caution, the Commission Investigator emailed Respondent a copy of the Complaint on September 16, 2024. Respondent acknowledged receipt of the Complaint on September 17, 2024.
  11. On September 27, 2024, late-filing penalties with regard to the 2023 SEI began to accrue at \$10.00 per day.
  12. On October 7, 2024, late-filing penalties with regard to the 2023 SEI began to accrue at \$100.00 per day.
  13. As of the date of the Panel hearing, Respondent had not filed a 2021 Pre-Election CDR, a 2023 SEI, or a 2024 SEI.

JTG #2

### 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 “public official” pursuant to Section 8-13-100(27) and a “candidate” pursuant to Section 8-13-1300(4). Therefore, the Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.

2. As a candidate, Respondent was required to file a Pre-Election CDR prior to the November 2, 2021 election in accordance with Section 8-13-1308(A), which 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.

3. As a public official, Respondent was required to file a SEI on or before March 30 in 2023 and 2024 in accordance with Section 8-13-1140, which provides, in relevant part:

A person required to file a [SEI] under this chapter annually shall file, pursuant to Section 8-13-365, an updated statement for the previous calendar year, no later than noon on March thirtieth of each calendar year . . .

4. Respondent has accrued \$10,100.00 in late-filing penalties (\$5,000.00 for the 2021 Pre-Election CDR, \$5,000.00 for the 2023 SEI,<sup>2</sup> and \$100.00 for the 2024 SEI) pursuant to Section 8-13-1510, which provides, in relevant part:

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; 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.

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<sup>2</sup> The Panel considers Respondent’s electronic receipt of the Complaint on September 17, 2024 sufficient to establish actual notice for purposes of late-filing penalty accrual under Section 8-13-1510.

JTG # 3

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.

**DECISION**

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Panel has determined, based on a preponderance of evidence, that Respondent Kim T. Gidron is in violation of one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308(A) for failing to file a 2021 Pre-Election CDR and two (2) counts of Section 8-13-1140 for failing to file a 2023 SEI and a 2024 SEI.

THEREFORE, Respondent is hereby Publicly Reprimanded and assessed a late-filing penalty of \$10,100.00 (\$5,000.00 for the 2021 Pre-Election CDR, \$5,000.00 for the 2023 SEI, and \$100.00 for the 2024 SEI) and an administrative fee of \$1,175.00, for a total of \$11,275.00.

FURTHER, pursuant to Section 8-13-320 of the Ethics Act, if the \$11,275.00 is not paid within six (6) months from Respondent’s receipt of this Order, a judgment in the amount of \$11,275.00 shall be entered against Respondent. In the event of a failure to pay, upon the Commission’s filing of said Judgment with the Clerk of Court’s Office in the County of Respondent’s last known residence, the Clerk of Court shall enter this Order in the amount of \$11,275.00, less any money paid, in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

FINALLY, Respondent Kim T. Gidron has ten (10) days from receipt of this Order to appeal this Decision and Order to the full Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 26<sup>th</sup> DAY OF August 2025.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

  
F. XAVIER STARKES, HEARING CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina