

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:
CASE NUMBER
C 2024-025

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: James Robert Dean, Jr.
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: City of Greenwood Councilman

Section 8-13-1120, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires certain officials to file a Statement of Economic Interests prior to assuming the duties of the office. Respondent was required to file the 2022 Statement of Economic Interests prior to November 28, 2022.

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 2023 and 2024 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 July 20, 2022 and July 25, 2022, and a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure was due between October 19, 2022 and October 24, 2022. Respondent was sent an email reminder thirty days before and ten days before the Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure for the August 9, 2022 election. He did not receive email reminders for the November 8, 2022 election because he failed to add the election to his account.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirements by a certified letter dated April 6, 2023 as described in the attached. To date, a 2022 Statement of Economic Interests, 2023 Statement of Economic Interests, 2024 Statement of Economic Interests, Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure due between July 20, 2022 and July 25, 2022, and Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure due between October 19, 2022 and October 24, 2022 have not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1120, Section 8-13-1140, Section 8-13-1308(A), and Section 8-13-1308(D)(1) SC 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 3rd day of May, 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 C2024-025)	
)	
State Ethics Commission)	NOTICE OF HEARING
Complainant.)	
)	
James R. Dean, Jr.)	
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 James Robert Dean, Jr., candidate for Greenwood City Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2022 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) for an August 9, 2022 special election, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A).

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

That James Robert Dean, Jr., candidate for Greenwood City Council, did in Richland

County, fail to file a 2022 Pre-Election CDR for a November 8, 2022 general election, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A).

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

That James Robert Dean, Jr., candidate for Greenwood City Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2022 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI), in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

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

That James Robert Dean, Jr., candidate for Greenwood City Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2023 SEI, in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

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

That James Robert Dean, Jr., candidate for Greenwood City Council, 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.

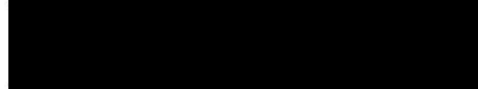


Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director
State Ethics Commission

Dated this 12th day,
of December 2024.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT James Robert Dean, Jr., 353 Marion Avenue, Greenwood, SC 29646 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 13th 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 (803) 253-4192

Columbia, South Carolina

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2024-025)
State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant,)
James R. Dean, Jr.,)
Respondent.)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

CONSENT ORDER

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on May 3, 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 James R. Dean, Jr. (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 Greenwood City Council in an August 9, 2022 special election. Respondent did not file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) between July 20, 2022 and July 25, 2022.
2. Respondent was a successful candidate for Greenwood City Council in a November 8, 2022 general election. Respondent did not file a Pre-Election CDR between October 19, 2022 and October 24, 2022.
3. Respondent did not file a 2022 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) prior to taking the oath of office on November 28, 2022. Respondent also failed to file a 2023 SEI by March 30, 2023.
4. In an April 6, 2023 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to file Pre-Election CDRs for the August 9, 2022 special election and the November 8, 2022 general election as well as his failure to file a 2022 SEI prior to taking the oath of office and a 2023 SEI.

JR #1

5. According to the United States Postal Service, the certified letter was delivered to Respondent's address of record on April 10, 2023 at 11:28 a.m.
6. On March 20, 2024, Respondent received a telephone call from a Commission staff member and asked the staff member to call him after 2:00 p.m. When the staff member called Respondent's telephone at 2:50 p.m., Respondent did not answer and had a full voicemail box.
7. Respondent did not file a 2024 SEI by March 30, 2024.
8. On July 3, 2024, following the filing of the Complaint, Respondent filed all requisite reports with the assistance 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) and a "public official" pursuant to Section 8-13-100(27). Therefore, the Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.
2. Section 8-13-1308(A) provides, in relevant part:

Upon receipt or expenditure of campaign contributions or the making of independent expenditures totaling an accumulated aggregate of five hundred dollars or more, a candidate . . . must file an initial certified campaign report within ten days of these initial receipts or expenditures. However, 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. Section 8-13-1140 provides, in relevant part:

A person required to file a [SEI] under this chapter annually shall file . . . an updated statement for the previous calendar year, no later than noon on March 30 . . .

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; . . .

JR #2

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 two (2) counts of violating Section 8-13-1308(A) for failing to file Pre-Election CDRs for the August 9, 2022 special election and the November 8, 2022 general election and two (2) counts of violating Section 8-13-1140 for failing to timely file SEIs in 2023 and 2024.¹ Through this Consent Order, Respondent admits he violated the Ethics Act as described herein. In mitigation, Respondent states he does not recall receiving the Commission’s penalty letter. He further asserts that he was unaware that he was required to file CDRs or SEIs and that he contacted Commission staff shortly after receiving the Complaint to get everything filed. The Commission acknowledges that the August 9, 2022 special election was Respondent’s first time running for office, Respondent was cooperative with the Commission’s investigation, and Respondent filed his missing reports shortly after receiving the Complaint. The Commission additionally acknowledges that its investigation revealed no evidence that Respondent received contributions or made expenditures beyond the \$600.00 Respondent disclosed on his CDRs.

DISPOSITION

1. The Commission hereby finds Respondent in violation of two (2) counts of Section 8-13-1308(A) and two (2) counts of Section 8-13-1140.
2. The Commission adopts the Statements of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Discussion, and Disposition as agreed upon by the Respondent.

¹ The Commission also found probable cause to believe Respondent failed to disclose one (1) in-kind contribution and one (1) in-kind expenditure in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F). However, given that Respondent has since made all disclosures, the Commission declines to proceed on these charges.

Additionally, based on the evidence submitted, the Commission found probable cause to believe Respondent failed to file a 2022 SEI in violation of Section 8-13-1140. However, Respondent’s failure to file a 2022 SEI was a violation of Section 8-13-1110(A). Due to the citation difference, the Commission hereby dismisses this allegation.

JR #3

THEREFORE, the Commission hereby issues this Public Reprimand and orders Respondent to pay the Commission, within nine (9) months from receipt of this Order, a late-filing penalty of \$400.00 (\$100.00 per report) and an administrative fee of \$400.00, for a total of \$800.00.

By executing this Consent Order, Respondent understands that he is confessing to a judgment of \$800.00 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 Clerk of Court in Respondent's last known County of residence, who shall enter this Order in the amount of \$800.00 (less any money paid) in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 17th DAY OF June 2025.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Signed by:

James R. Dean, Jr.

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JAMES ROBERT DEAN, JR.
RESPONDENT

[Redacted Signature]