

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:  
CASE NUMBER  
C 2024-090

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Douglas A. Slaughter  
ADDRESS: 1472 Canterbury Court SE  
Aiken, SC 29801  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (803) 439-3278  
TITLE: Candidate – Aiken County School District

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 an accumulated aggregate of \$500.00 or more; 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 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, April 10, 2023, July 10, 2023, October 10, 2023, January 10, 2024, April 10, 2024, July 10, 2024, and October 10, 2024. Respondent was sent an email reminder thirty days before each Campaign Disclosure deadline from January 2021 through October 2021 and was sent an email reminder thirty days before and ten days before each Campaign Disclosure deadline after October 2021.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by letters dated February 16, 2024 and March 22, 2024 as described in the attached. To date, a properly completed 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, Quarter 1 2023, Quarter 2 2023, Quarter 3 2023, Quarter 4 2023, Quarter 1 2024, Quarter 2 2024, and Quarter 3 2024 Campaign Disclosure have not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B) 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  
21st day of November, 2024

[Redacted Signature]

Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director

[Redacted Notary Signature]

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 C2024-090	)	
	)	
State Ethics Commission	)	<b>NOTICE OF HEARING</b>
Complainant.	)	
	)	
Douglas A. Slaughter	)	
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, October 16, 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 CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Douglas A. Slaughter, candidate for Aiken County School Board, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2021 Quarter 1 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 Douglas A. Slaughter, candidate for Aiken County School Board, did in Richland

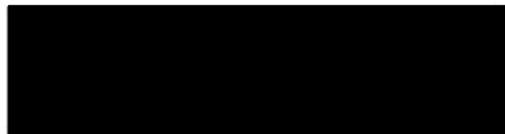
County, fail to file a 2021 Quarter 2 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Douglas A. Slaughter, candidate for Aiken County School Board, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2021 Quarter 3/Final CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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 21st day,  
of May 2025.

**Certificate of Service by Certified Mail**

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Douglas A. Slaughter, 146 Lincoln Road, Brooklyn, NY 11225 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025, by **CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.

[REDACTED]

Columbia, South Carolina

**Rachael O'Bryan, Administrative Assistant**  
State Ethics Commission (803) 253-4192

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND )  
IN THE MATTER OF: )  
COMPLAINT C2024-090 )  
State Ethics Commission, )  
Complainant, )  
Douglas A. Slaughter, )  
Respondent. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**CONSENT ORDER**

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on November 21, 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 Douglas A. Slaughter (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 Aiken County School Board in a November 3, 2020 election.
2. Prior to the filing of the Complaint, Respondent's most recently filed Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) was a 2020 Pre-Election CDR that reflected contributions on-hand. Respondent thereafter failed to file any additional CDRs.<sup>1</sup>
3. In a February 16, 2024 certified letter mailed to Respondent's address of record at 1472 Canterbury Court SE in Aiken, South Carolina, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to timely file additional CDRs. This letter was subsequently returned by the United States Postal Service (USPS) as "Unclaimed."
4. On March 22, 2024, the certified letter was re-mailed via first class mail with a USPS tracking

<sup>1</sup> Although the Commission's electronic filing system appears to reflect that Respondent filed a Quarter 4 2020 CDR, a closer look indicates this CDR was system-generated and not submitted by Respondent.

number to Respondent's address of record.

5. According to the USPS, the re-mailed letter was "Delivered, In/At Mailbox" on March 28, 2024.
6. Following the filing of the Complaint, Respondent's campaign bank account records were subpoenaed and reviewed. The records reflected that Respondent's campaign bank account contained \$136.87 when he filed the 2020 Pre-Election CDR. The records also indicated that Respondent did not engage in any campaign activity after the November 3, 2020 election. Rather, the bank collected service fees until the campaign bank account was closed on July 14, 2021.
7. Following the filing of the Complaint, Respondent filed all required CDRs with the assistance of Commission staff.

#### 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. Respondent was required to file quarterly CDRs until his campaign bank account reached a zero balance on July 14, 2021, in accordance with 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.

Accordingly, Respondent was required to file a Quarter 1 2021 CDR, a Quarter 2 2021 CDR, and a Quarter 3 2021 CDR.

3. 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

JX #2

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.

4. 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 three (3) counts of violating Section 8-13-1308(B) for failing to timely file CDRs from Quarter 1 2021 through Quarter 3 2021. Through this Consent Order, Respondent admits he violated the Ethics Act when he failed to timely file these CDRs. In mitigation, Respondent states that he is currently a resident of New York and that he was not living in Aiken in 2024. Therefore, Respondent asserts that he did not receive the Commission’s letter. Respondent states that he only became aware of the complaint when a Commission staff member contacted him in an attempt to effectuate service in January of 2025. The Commission acknowledges that no signature accompanied the proof of service from USPS.

In addition, Respondent states that 2020 was his first and last time running for public office. Respondent further states that he promptly filed the necessary reports once he was made aware of his non-compliance. The Commission recognizes that Respondent has filed all requisite reports.

### **DISPOSITION**

1. The Commission finds Respondent in violation of three (3) counts of Section 8-13-1308(B).
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 \$150.00 (\$50.00 per CDR) and an administrative fee of \$400.00, for a total of \$550.00. The

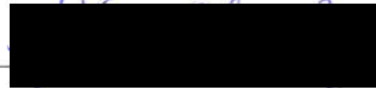
JX #3


Commission declines to assess any accrued late-filing penalties given that Respondent does not appear to have received certified notice of his failure to file in accordance with Section 8-13-1510(A)(2).

By executing this Consent Order, Respondent understands that he is confessing to a judgment of \$550.00 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 \$550.00 (less any money paid) in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 20<sup>th</sup> DAY OF July 2025.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



DocuSigned by:  
  
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DOUGLAS A. SLAUGHTER  
RESPONDENT