

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:  
CASE NUMBER  
C 2025-010

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Dwanda S. Bolden  
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]  
TITLE: Council Member – Town of Estill

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 2022 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 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 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure was due between March 24, 2021 and March 29, 2021.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirements by a certified letter dated December 4, 2023 as described in the attached. In addition, an email reminder was sent thirty days prior to the Statement of Economic Interests deadline. To date, a 2022 Statement of Economic Interests and Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure have not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1120 and 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 24th day of January, 2025

[REDACTED]  
Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director

[REDACTED]  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission expires 5/22/26

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

C102form

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
COUNTY OF RICHLAND	)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
	)	
IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
Complaint C2025-010	)	
	)	
State Ethics Commission	)	<b>NOTICE OF HEARING</b>
Complainant.	)	
	)	
Dwanda S. Bolden	)	
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 Dwanda S. Bolden, Estill Town 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 Dwanda S. Bolden, Estill Town Councilmember, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2022 Statement of Economic Interests, 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 Dwanda S. Bolden, P.O. Box 1475, Estill, SC 29918 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.



**Rachael O'Bryan, Administrative Assistant**

Columbia, South Carolina

State Ethics Commission

(803) 253-4192

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 COUNTY OF RICHLAND )  
 )  
 IN THE MATTER OF: )  
 COMPLAINT C2025-010 )  
 )  
 State Ethics Commission, )  
 Complainant, )  
 )  
 Dwanda S. Bolden )  
 Respondent. )  
 \_\_\_\_\_ )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**CONSENT ORDER**

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on January 24, 2025. Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act), the Complaint against Dwanda S. Bolden (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. Respondent has served on the Estill Town Council since 2017. Most recently, Respondent was re-elected in an April 13, 2021 election.
2. Respondent failed to file a 2021 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) fifteen (15) days before her April 13, 2021 election.
3. Respondent failed to file a 2022 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) by March 30, 2022.
4. In a December 4, 2023 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent that she had not filed a 2021 Pre-Election CDR, a 2022 SEI, or a 2023 SEI.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> The Commission's letter also notified Respondent that her 2020 SEI was filed late on April 9, 2020 and that her 2021 SEI was filed late on March 28, 2022. In addition, as described herein, Respondent filed her 2023 SEI late on December 2, 2024. Because these SEIs were filed prior to the filing of the complaint, the associated late-filing penalties have been handled through the Commission's standard noncompliance process.

*Handwritten signature and "# 1"*

5. According to the United States Postal Service (USPS), the certified letter was delivered to Respondent's address of record on December 11, 2023 at 2:26 p.m. Respondent signed for the certified letter.
6. On November 18, 2024, Commission employee Erin Caughman telephoned Respondent regarding her delinquent reports. Caughman also emailed Respondent a copy of the December 4, 2023 certified letter.
7. On November 26, 2024, Respondent telephoned the Commission and received assistance in updating her email and resetting her password in the Commission's filing system.
8. On December 2, 2024, Respondent filed a 2023 SEI and a 2024 SEI,<sup>2</sup> but did not file the 2021 Pre-Election CDR or the 2022 SEI.
9. On January 23, 2025, the complaint was filed.
10. On January 30, 2025, Respondent came into compliance by filing her 2021 Pre-Election CDR and 2022 SEI.
11. The Commission's investigation in this matter revealed that Respondent did not raise or spend any money during the 2021 election cycle.

### 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(A) 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

---

<sup>2</sup> Respondent's 2024 SEI was due on March 30, 2024, but was not filed until December 2, 2024. However, because the 2024 SEI was filed prior to the filing of the complaint, it was not included therein. Any associated late-filing penalty is therefore being handled through the Commission's standard noncompliance process.

JX #2

campaign report fifteen days before an election.

Here, Respondent was a candidate in an April 13, 2021 election and she did not raise or spend money in furtherance of her candidacy. Therefore, Respondent was required to file a Pre-Election CDR fifteen (15) days prior to the April 13, 2021 election. Respondent's failure to do so violated Section 8-13-1308(A).

3. Section 8-13-1140 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 . . .

Here, Respondent served on Estill Town Council in 2022. Therefore, Respondent was required to file a 2022 SEI on or before March 30, 2022. Respondent's failure to do so violated Section 8-13-1140.

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; (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.

Here, Respondent received certified notice of her failure to timely file a 2021 Pre-Election CDR and a 2022 SEI on December 11, 2023. Pursuant to Section 8-13-1510(A)(1), Respondent's late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$20.00 per day (\$10.00 per report) on December 21, 2023. Pursuant to Section 8-13-1510(A)(2), Respondent's late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$200.00 per day (\$10.00 per report) on December 31, 2023. By the time Respondent came into compliance on January 30, 2025, Respondent had accrued the statutory

JX #3

maximum of \$5,000.00 per report, for a total of \$10,000.00.

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 Section 8-13-1308(A) for failing to timely file a 2021 Pre-Election CDR and one (1) count of Section 8-13-1140 for failing to timely file a 2022 SEI. Through this Consent Order, Respondent admits she violated the Ethics Act as outlined herein. In mitigation, Respondent asserts that she believed she was in compliance as of December 2, 2024 when she received assistance from Commission staff. Respondent further states that she believed she had filed her 2022 SEI on time. The Commission acknowledges that Respondent did attempt to file a SEI on March 28, 2022; however, Respondent actually filed a 2021 SEI instead of a 2022 SEI.

As further mitigation, Respondent states that her oldest daughter suffered a stroke in 2019 and was diagnosed with lupus in 2020. As a result, Respondent’s daughter began living with Respondent and Respondent became her sole caregiver. In addition, Respondent’s husband suffered a stroke in 2021, and Respondent was responsible for his care. Finally, Respondent states Respondent was also the sole caregiver of her ninety-four (94) year-old grandfather during all relevant times, until his death in June of 2024. The Commission acknowledges that Respondent has provided documentation relating to the various health complications related to members of her family. The Commission further states that this is Respondent’s first complaint with the Commission.

### **DISPOSITION**

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

JX #4

one (1) count 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.

THEREFORE, the Commission hereby issues this Written Warning to Respondent and orders Respondent to pay the Commission, within twelve (12) months from receipt of this Order, a reduced late-filing penalty of \$200.00 (\$100.00 per report), and an administrative fee of \$500.00, for a total of \$700.00. In light of the aforementioned mitigation, the Commission declines to assess the accrued late-filing penalties totaling \$9,800.00.

By executing this Consent Order, Respondent understands that she is not only admitting to a violation of the Ethics Act, but also confessing to a judgment of \$700.00 in the event she 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 \$700.00 (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



Signed by:  
  
 151811ADB21D4E1  
 DWANDA S. BOLDEN  
 RESPONDENT