

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:
CASE NUMBER
C 2025-018

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Shawn T. Ragin
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: Sumter County School Board Trustee

Section 8-13-1120, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires disclosure of the source, type, and amount of income from a governmental entity and a listing of the private source and type of any income received by the filer or a member of the filer's immediate family during the reporting period. Respondent failed to report income from Sumter County School District on the 2021 Statement of Economic Interests, failed to report the source of private income on his 2022 Statement of Economic Interests, and failed to properly report income from Sumter County School District on the 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 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 October 19, 2022 and October 24, 2022.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirements by letters dated September 22, 2023, December 8, 2023, February 23, 2024, and April 12, 2024 as described in the attached. To date, a properly completed Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure and a properly amended 2021, 2022, 2023, or 2024 Statement of Economic Interests have not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1120, 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
12th day of February, 2025

[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)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
Complaint C2025-018)
State Ethics Commission)
Complainant.)
Shawn T. Ragin)
Respondent.)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

NOTICE OF HEARING

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 16, 2026 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 AN INITIAL CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(A), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Shawn T. Ragin, Sumter County School Board Member, 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 A PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(D)(1), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**


That Shawn T. Ragin, Sumter County School Board Member, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2022 Pre-Election CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1).

COUNT THREE
FAILURE TO OPERATE THROUGH CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Shawn T. Ragin, Sumter County School Board Member, did in Richland County, fail to properly deposit all campaign contributions into his campaign bank account and make all 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.).

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 20th day,
of November 2025.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on RESPONDENT Shawn T. Ragin, 3835 Quiet Court, Sumter, SC 29154 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 20th day of November 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

(803) 253-4192

Columbia, South Carolina

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
RECEIVED FEB 17 25 PM 4:02:0

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2025-018)
State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant,)
Shawn T. Ragin,)
Respondent.)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

CONSENT ORDER

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on February 12, 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 Shawn T. Ragin (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 has served on the Sumter County School Board since 2018. Respondent was most recently a successful candidate in a November 8, 2022, election.
2. Respondent did not file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) prior to the November 8, 2022, election.
3. Respondent filed a 2021 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) on March 30, 2021, but did not disclose any private or government income therein.
4. Respondent filed a 2022 SEI on September 11, 2022, but did not disclose any private or government income therein.¹

¹ Respondent's 2022 SEI was not filed by the March 30, 2022, deadline set forth in Section 8-13-1140. Pursuant to Section 8-13-1510, Respondent was assessed a \$100.00 late-filing penalty, which is being

JK # 1

5. In two (2) certified letters dated September 22, 2023, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to file the 2022 Pre-Election CDR and of his failure to disclose income on his 2021 and 2022 SEIs.
6. According to the United States Postal Service (USPS), it was thereafter “unable to locate any delivery information” for the September 22, 2023, certified letters.
7. On December 8, 2023, the certified letters were remailed to Respondent via certified mail. The letters were subsequently returned by USPS on February 6, 2024, as unclaimed.
8. On February 23, 2024, the letters were again remailed to Respondent via certified mail. The letters were subsequently returned by USPS on April 9, 2024, as unclaimed.
9. On April 12, 2024, Commission staff re-mailed the letters to Respondent via first-class mail with tracking. According to USPS, the letters were delivered to Respondent’s address of record on April 15, 2024, at 3:40 p.m.
10. On April 25, 2024, late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$10.00 per day.
11. On May 5, 2024, late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$100.00 per day.
12. On January 29, 2025, a Commission staff member spoke to Respondent regarding his need to file the 2022 Pre-Election CDR and amend his SEIs.
13. On February 11, 2025, the Complaint was filed.
14. On March 3, 2025, a Commission staff member assisted Respondent with amending his SEIs. The amended filings reflected private income earned from Kingdom Impact Worship Center and Ragin Preparatory Christian Academy, and government income from the District.
15. During the investigation, Respondent’s campaign bank account records were subpoenaed,

handled through the Commission’s standard non-compliance process and is not part of the current Complaint.

JA #2

revealing the following relevant information:

- a. Respondent received a \$500.00 contribution on August 2, 2022, but did not file an Initial CDR within ten (10) days of receipt.
 - b. Respondent did not open a campaign bank account in conjunction with his 2022 election cycle. Rather, Respondent deposited the aforementioned contribution into his personal bank account, which he used to purchase car magnets, buttons, and yard signs.
16. On October 10, 2025, with Commission staff's assistance, Respondent filed a 2022 Initial CDR and a 2022 Pre-Election CDR.

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. Pursuant to Section 8-13-1308(A), Respondent was required to file, but failed to file, an Initial CDR within ten (10) days of receiving the August 2, 2022, campaign contribution of \$500.00:

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 . . .

3. Pursuant to Section 8-13-1308(D)(1), Respondent was required to file, but failed to file, a 2022 Pre-Election CDR between October 19 and October 24, 2022:

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 for the period ending twenty days before the election.

JR #3

4. Respondent failed to use a campaign bank account for his campaign contributions and expenditures in violation of Section 8-13-1312, which provides, in relevant part:

. . . 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 duly 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 . . .

5. In accordance with Section 8-13-1510(A), Respondent has accrued \$5,100.00 in late-filing penalties (\$5,000.00 for the 2022 Pre-Election CDR and \$100.00 for the 2022 Initial CDR):

. . . 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.

Respondent did not accrue additional late-filing penalties with regard to the 2022 Initial CDR because he did not receive certified notice of his failure to file this report from the Commission.

6. Section 8-13-320(10)(l) allows the Commission to issue a civil penalty of up to \$2,000.00 for each violation of the Ethics Act.
7. 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 2022 Initial CDR, one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1) for failing to timely file a 2022 Pre-Election CDR, and one (1) count of Section 8-13-

 #4

1312 for failing to use a campaign bank account for campaign contributions and expenditures during the 2022 election cycle.²

Through this Consent Order, Respondent admits he violated the Ethics Act as described herein. In mitigation, Respondent states that he apologizes for the inconvenience to the Commission and stresses that his actions were not nefarious. Respondent further states that he was caring for an ill family member in 2024 and that this caused him to be less attentive to the Commission's correspondence during that time period.

DISPOSITION

1. The Commission hereby finds Respondent in violation of one (1) count of 8-13-1308(A), one (1) count of 8-13-1308(D)(1), and one (1) count of 8-13-1312.
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 \$400.00 (\$300.00 for the Pre-Election CDR and \$100.00 for the Initial CDR) and an administrative fee of \$500.00, for a total of \$900.00. The Commission declines to assess the remaining accrued late-filing penalties or a civil penalty given the aforementioned mitigation.

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 in the amount of \$900.00 in the event of untimely payment as provided above. In that instance, the Commission shall file a Judgment against Respondent with the County Clerk of Court in Respondent's last known County

² The Commission also found probable cause charge Respondent with failing to properly disclose income on his SEIs in violation of Section 8-13-1120. Because Respondent has properly amended his SEIs to disclose his income, the Commission declines to proceed as to these counts.

JA #5

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 2026.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



SHAWN T. RAGIN
RESPONDENT