

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION**

**FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:  
CASE NUMBER**

C 2025-041

**COMPLAINT FORM**

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

**RESPONDENT:** Patricia F. Webb  
**ADDRESS:** [REDACTED]  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** [REDACTED]  
**TITLE:** Candidate – City of Easley Council

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, 2024, April 10, 2024, July 10, 2024, October 10, 2024, January 10, 2025, and April 10, 2025 in the November 5, 2019 election cycle. In addition, a Campaign Disclosure was due no later than April 10, 2024, July 10, 2024, October 10, 2024, January 10, 2025, and April 10, 2025 in the November 7, 2023 election cycle. Respondent was sent an email reminder thirty days before and ten days before each Campaign Disclosure deadline.

Section 8-13-1348 of the South Carolina Code of laws, 1976, as amended, prohibits a candidate from using campaign funds to defray personal expenses which are unrelated to the campaign. The Respondent made an expenditure to Easley Car Wash in the amount of \$10.00 on October 7, 2023 with the description “vehicle repair”, an expenditure to Easley Car Wash in the amount of \$8.00 on October 7, 2023 with the description “car wash”, and an expenditure to Ingles in the amount of \$27.79 on November 8, 2023 with the description “gasoline.”

The Respondent was instructed to provide a mileage log in connection with campaign travel for the purchases. If that could not be provided, the Respondent was instructed to either reimburse the campaign account from personal funds or donate to the Children’s Trust Fund or a 501 (C)(3) if the campaign account is closed.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirements by letters dated March 5, 2024 and April 11, 2024 as described in the attached. To date, a properly completed Quarter 4 2023, Quarter 1 2024, Quarter 2 2024, Quarter 3 2024, Quarter 4 2024, and Quarter 1 2025 Campaign Disclosure have not been received under the November 5, 2019 election cycle, and a properly completed Quarter 1 2024, Quarter 2 2024, Quarter 3 2024, Quarter 4

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2024, and Quarter 1 2025 Campaign Disclosure have not been received under the November 7, 2023 election cycle. In addition, the Respondent has not provided a mileage log, reimbursed the campaign account, or provided proof of a donation. All in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B), Section 8-13-1308 (F), and Section 8-13-1348, 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.**

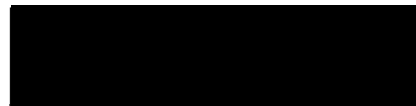
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF Richland

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  
25th day of April, 2025



Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director



Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission expires 01/22/25

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**

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
COUNTY OF RICHLAND	)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
	)	
IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
COMPLAINT C2025-041	)	
	)	
State Ethics Commission,	)	<b>DECISION AND ORDER</b>
Complainant.	)	
	)	
Patricia Webb,	)	
Respondent.	)	
_____	)	

This matter came before the South Carolina Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on April 25, 2025. The Commission’s Executive Director reviewed the Complaint, determined it contained facts sufficient to warrant an investigation, and ordered an investigation. On September 18, 2025, the Commission reviewed the Complaint and investigative findings to determine whether probable cause existed to charge Patricia Webb (Respondent) with violating the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act). For the reasons stated herein, the Commission finds probable cause exists, but waives further proceedings.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

1. Respondent was a successful candidate for Easley City Council (Council) in a November 5, 2019 election and an unsuccessful candidate for Council in a November 7, 2023 election.
2. In conjunction with the November 5, 2019 election cycle, the following occurred:
  - a. On November 4, 2019, Respondent filed a 2019 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) disclosing \$738.25 in on-hand contributions.
  - b. In a December 16, 2022 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent that her 2019 Pre-Election CDR was filed late. The Commission further notified Respondent that her 2019 CDR contained a balance of on-hand contributions and, therefore, she was required to continue filing quarterly CDRs. The Commission assessed a \$1,300.00 late-filing penalty for the 2019 Pre-Election CDR and the following twelve (12)

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quarterly CDRs Respondent had not filed.

- c. On March 29, 2023, Respondent filed quarterly CDRs from Quarter 1 2020 through Quarter 4 2022. In the Quarter 4 2022 CDR, Respondent disclosed \$466.69 in on-hand contributions.
  - d. On October 18, 2023, Respondent filed a Quarter 1 2023 CDR, a Quarter 2 2023 CDR, and a Quarter 3 2023 CDR.
3. In conjunction with the November 7, 2023 election cycle, the following occurred:
- a. On October 18, 2023, Respondent filed an Initial CDR disclosing \$2,000.00 in on-hand contributions.
  - b. On October 18, 2023, Respondent filed a Quarter 3/Pre-Election CDR disclosing - \$8.94 in on-hand contributions.
  - c. On January 10, 2024, Respondent filed a Quarter 4 2023 CDR disclosing -\$186.83 in on-hand contributions and an outstanding loan of \$250.00.
4. In a March 5, 2024 certified letter,<sup>1</sup> the Commission assessed a \$600.00 late-filing penalty for the following:
- a. As to the 2019 election cycle - a late-filed Quarter 4 2022 CDR, a late-filed Quarter 1 2023 CDR, a late-filed Quarter 2 2023 CDR, a late-filed Quarter 3 2023 CDR, and an unfiled Quarter 4 2023 CDR.
  - b. As to the 2023 election cycle, a late-filed 2023 Initial CDR.
5. According to the United States Postal Service (USPS), the March 5, 2024 certified letter was delivered to Respondent's address of record on March 8, 2024 at 4:14 p.m.

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<sup>1</sup> The March 5, 2024 letter also advised Respondent that certain expenditures made within her CDRs appeared to be personal in nature. The Commission's investigation subsequently revealed that these expenditures were actually made using Respondent's personal funds and were inadvertently disclosed in Respondent's CDRs as campaign-related expenses.

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6. On March 28, 2024, the Commission received a personal check from Respondent in the amount of \$600.00. However, Respondent did not file any additional CDRs.
7. In an April 11, 2024 first-class letter, the Commission acknowledged receipt of the \$600.00 late-filing penalty, but advised Respondent that she had still not filed the requisite CDRs.
8. Receiving no response, the Complaint was filed on April 25, 2025.
9. During the Commission's investigation, the following relevant information was discovered:
  - a. Respondent's 2019 campaign bank account was closed on December 27, 2019, thereby placing any activity associated with this account beyond the Commission's four-year statute of limitations set forth in Section 8-13-320(9).
  - b. On July 21, 2023, Respondent paid a \$360.00 filing fee using personal funds. However, Respondent did not file an Initial CDR within ten (10) days of paying the \$360.00 filing fee.
  - c. Respondent opened her 2023 campaign bank account on July 31, 2023 with a \$2,000.00 deposit of personal funds. This account was subject to twenty-nine (29) transactions and was closed on December 7, 2023. Of the twenty-nine (29) transactions listed in the campaign bank account records, Respondent failed to disclose two (2) campaign expenditures and one (1) campaign contribution within her CDRs. Additionally, Respondent used \$27.29 at Ingles Gas for gasoline on November 8, 2023.
10. On July 24, 2025, Respondent came into compliance by filing all requisite CDRs and making all necessary disclosures therein. Respondent thereafter made a \$27.29 donation to the Children's Trust Fund (CTF) for the November 8, 2023 expenditure for gasoline.

**LAW**

Pursuant to Section 8-13-320, the Commission is empowered to receive complaints and conduct investigations related to violations of the Ethics Act. Following the receipt of a Complaint

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and completion of a corresponding investigation, the Commission must determine whether there is probable cause to believe a violation of the Ethics Act occurred. Section 8-13-320(10)(i). If the Commission determines probable cause exists, it may order a hearing on the merits or, if the Respondent has acted to remedy or correct the alleged violation, it may waive further proceedings. Section 8-13-320(10)(i). The decision to waive further proceedings lies within the sound discretion of the Commission.

Section 8-13-1308(A) requires candidates to file an Initial CDR within ten (10) days of raising and/or spending an accumulated aggregate of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). In addition, Section 8-13-1308(F) requires all CDRs to contain: (1) the total of contributions accepted by the candidate; (2) the name and address of each person making a contribution of more than one hundred dollars and the amount and date of receipt of each contribution; (3) the total expenditures made by or on behalf of the candidate; and (4) the name and address of each person to whom an expenditure is made from campaign funds, including the date, amount, purpose, and beneficiary of the expenditure.

### DECISION

Based on evidence presented, the Commission hereby determines there is probable cause to believe that Respondent violated Section 8-13-1308(A) of the Ethics Act by failing to file a 2023 Initial CDR within ten (10) days of spending or receiving an accumulated aggregate of \$500.00. Moreover, the Commission finds probable cause exists to believe that Respondent failed to disclose two (2) campaign expenditures and one (1) campaign contribution, all in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F). However, given that Respondent has corrected these errors and because Respondent has already paid the \$100.00 late-filing penalty associated therewith, the Commission hereby waives further proceedings with regard to this Complaint. Moreover, the Commission finds that based on

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Respondent's inaccurately filed CDRs, she has overpaid \$1,500.00<sup>2</sup> to the Commission for CDRs that she was not required to file. Accordingly, Respondent should be reimbursed in the amount of \$1,500.00.

THEREFORE, pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i), and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, the Commission hereby waives further proceedings.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 11<sup>th</sup> DAY OF November, 2025.

SOUTH CAROLINA ETHICS COMMISSION

  
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F. XAVIER STARKES, CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina

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<sup>2</sup> In addition to the \$600.00 check Respondent paid to the Commission, the \$1,300.00 debt resulting from the Commission's December 16, 2022 letter was sent to the Department of Revenue (DOR) for collection. DOR ultimately collected the \$1,300.00 from Respondent.