

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:

CASE NUMBER

C 2025-042

COMPLAINT FORM

COMPLAINANT: State Ethics Commission
ADDRESS: 201 Executive Center Drive
Suite 150

RESPONDENT: Paige R. Jeffcoat
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

Columbia, SC 29210

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (803) 253-4192

TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: Former Town of North Council Member

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 13, 2021 and October 18, 2021.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by a certified letter dated March 15, 2024 as described in the attached. To date, a properly completed Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure has not been received. All in violation of 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
25th day of April, 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

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South Carolina State Ethics Commission
201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150
Columbia, SC 29210

June 20, 2025

Answer to Complaint Number: C2025-042

I am accountable and responsible for my actions/non-actions in this complaint. I would like to share a brief background that may help clarify my failure in filing the campaign report as required in a timely manner. I understand that my reasons may have no weight in your final decision, but I wish to share all the same.

When I agreed to run for town council, it wasn't my decision, but one that my mother made for me. I registered thinking that I would never be elected and I was making my mother happy just by registering, but I was unopposed in this election. I was incapable of making any big decisions for my life during this time. I didn't clearly see that then, but I do now. I was into my third year of rebuilding my life after being stuck in alcoholism/drug addictions for 30 years, my entire adult life. My mother knew my heart for wanting to help others stuck in addictions, like I was, and she thought that if I was on the town council that I could somehow open the eyes of the town to help find solutions for the addicts instead of repeatedly putting people in jail and releasing them back into their addictive lifestyles.

If my memory hasn't failed me, I served on the town council for maybe 3 months. I did not understand politics or political policy. I vaguely remember asking the mayor, Julius Jones, for help in filing the campaign report. I was relying on people to tell me how to do everything during this time in life. Mr. Jones told me that he would help later but I never received that help and honestly, I completely forgot about it, then resigned. I sent a letter of resignation to the mayor and I thought I mailed one to the appropriate state office.

During that time of my life, I couldn't see what I see now because life is only clear looking back. Erin from the Ethics Commission helped me clear up the filings. My mind is clear these days and the filing of the campaign report was simple. I couldn't see how simple it was back then because my mind everything in life difficult.

Ultimately, the outcome lies in your hands and I will respect and comply with your decision.

Respectfully,
Paige R. Jeffcoat



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
 COUNTY OF RICHLAND) BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
)
 IN THE MATTER OF:)
 COMPLAINT C2025-042)
)
 State Ethics Commission,) **DECISION AND ORDER**
 Complainant.)
)
 Paige R. Jeffcoat,)
 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 July 17, 2025, the Commission reviewed the Complaint and investigative findings to determine whether probable cause existed to charge Paige R. Jeffcoat (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 North Town Council in a November 2, 2021 general election.
2. Respondent failed to file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) between October 13, 2021 and October 18, 2021.
3. In a March 15, 2024 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of her failure to timely file a 2021 Pre-Election CDR.
4. According to the United States Postal Service (USPS), the Commission’s certified letter was “Delivered, Individual Picked Up at Postal Facility” on March 19, 2024. The signature on the

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return receipt provided by USPS reads “Richard Jeffcoat.”

5. Following the filing of the Complaint, Respondent filed her 2021 Pre-Election CDR disclosing no contributions or expenditures.
6. During the Commission’s investigation, Respondent advised Commission that she resigned three (3) months after the election. Respondent further advised that Richard Jeffcoat was her brother and that she did not receive the Commission’s March 15, 2024 certified letter.

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 and completion of a corresponding investigation, the Commission must determine whether there is probable cause to believe a violation of the Ethics Act occurred. S.C. Code Ann. § 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. S.C. Code Ann. § 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 who do not raise or spend an accumulated aggregate of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) to file a Pre-Election CDR fifteen (15) days before an election.

DECISION

Based on evidence presented, the Commission hereby determines there is probable cause to believe that Respondent violated Section 8-13-1308 of the Ethics Act by failing to file a 2021 Pre-Election CDR fifteen (15) days prior to her November 2, 2021 election. However, given that Respondent has corrected this error, and in light of the facts, the Commission hereby waives further

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proceedings with regard to this Complaint.

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 31st DAY OF July, 2025.

SOUTH CAROLINA ETHICS COMMISSION


F. XAVIER STARKES, CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina