

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:  
CASE NUMBER  
C 2025-049

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Ashley Jordan  
ADDRESS: 4927 Voorhees Road  
Denmark, SC 29042  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (803) 707-4521  
TITLE: Candidate – Town of Denmark Council

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. Section 8-13-1348 (B) allows payment of food or beverages consumed by the candidate or members of his immediate family while at, and in connection with, a political event. Meals, other than at a political event/function, are not allowable. According to the Quarter 4 2022 and Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure, the Respondent made an expenditure to Tokyo Steak & Seafood in the amount of \$60.00. In addition, on the Quarter 1 2023 & Final Campaign Disclosure, the Respondent made an expenditure to BP in the amount of \$44.50 and made an expenditure to Pizza Hut in the amount of \$21.58.

The Respondent was instructed to provide a mileage log in connection with campaign travel for the gas purchase and provide more information regarding the expenditures at restaurants. If these 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.


To date, the Respondent has not provided a mileage log, reimbursed the campaign account, provided an explanation of the expenditures, or provided proof of a donation all in violation of Section 8-13-1348, 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 8th day of July, 2025

  
Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director

  
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	)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
	)	
IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
COMPLAINT C2025-049	)	
	)	
State Ethics Commission,	)	<b>DECISION AND ORDER</b>
Complainant.	)	
	)	
Ashley Jordan,	)	
Respondent.	)	
_____	)	

This matter came before the South Carolina Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on May 8, 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 Ashley Jordan (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.

**STATEMENTS OF FACT**

1. Respondent was an unsuccessful candidate for Denmark Town Council (Council) in a February 14, 2023 election.
2. On February 4, 2023, Respondent filed a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR). Therein, Respondent disclosed a \$60.00 expenditure to Tokyo Steak & Seafood for “campaign workers meal.”
3. On March 31, 2023, Respondent filed a Quarter 1/Final 2023 CDR. Therein, Respondent disclosed a \$44.50 expenditure to BP for “campaign travel” and a \$21.58 expenditure to Pizza Hut for “campaign workers meal.”
4. In two (2) February 5, 2024 first-class letters, the Commission notified Respondent that the aforementioned expenditures appeared personal in nature and, with regard to the campaign travel,

JJA #1

asked Respondent to provide a mileage log.

5. On March 20, 2024, the February 5, 2024 letters were mailed to Respondent via certified mail. On May 13, 2024, the certified letters were returned as "Return to Sender – Unclaimed."
6. The letters were then remailed via first-class mail between May 15 and May 17, 2024.
7. Having received no response to its letters, the Complaint was filed on May 8, 2025.
8. The Commission investigation revealed that Respondent did not have a campaign bank account during her election cycle. Rather, Respondent used her personal bank account to make campaign expenditures. Respondent did not accept any outside contributions.
9. The Commission investigation also revealed that Respondent had stored her campaign records at Monster's Storage in Orangeburg, SC, but that the contents of her storage unit were auctioned off when Respondent was unable to pay the monthly storage fee.
10. The Commission investigation further revealed Respondent was caring for her ailing father in or around the time of the 2023 election.
11. Respondent subsequently amended the requisite CDRs and made the necessary disclosures therein. Respondent is now in compliance.

#### 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. 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 taken action 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.

JAK # 2

Section 8-13-1302 requires candidates to maintain records related to their campaign for four (4) years. Section 8-13-1312 requires candidates to establish a campaign account.

**DECISION**

Based on evidence presented, the Commission finds that there is probable cause to support a finding that Respondent violated Section 8-13-1302 when she failed to maintain campaign records and Section 8-13-1312 when she failed to use a campaign bank account for campaign expenditures. However, based on the totality of the circumstances, and because Respondent has amended the necessary CDRs and is in compliance, the Commission chooses to exercise its discretion and waive further proceedings. The Commission therefore finds probable cause to believe that Respondent violated Section 8-13-1302 and Section 8-13-1312 of the Ethics Act, but 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