

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:

CASE NUMBER
c 2025-051

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Drake Jordan
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: Board Member – Berea Public Service District

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 18, 2023 and October 23, 2023.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by a certified letter dated October 25, 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 15th day of May, 2025

[REDACTED]
Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director

[REDACTED]
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission expires _____

SEC-7 (Revised 3/2022)

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND) BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
))
IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2025-051)
))
State Ethics Commission,) **DECISION AND ORDER**
Complainant.)
))
Morris D. "Drake" Jordan, Sr.,)
Respondent.)
_____)

This matter came before the South Carolina Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on May 15, 2025. The Commission’s Executive Director reviewed the Complaint, determined it contained facts sufficient to warrant an investigation, and ordered an investigation. On January 15, 2026, the Commission reviewed the Complaint and investigative findings to determine whether probable cause existed to charge Morris D. “Drake” Jordan, Sr. (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 the Berea Public Service District (District) in a November 7, 2023, election
2. Respondent did not file a 2023 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) prior to the November 7, 2023, election.
3. In an October 25, 2024, certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to file a 2023 Pre-Election CDR. According to the United States Postal Service (USPS), the certified letter was delivered to Respondent’s address of record on November 4, 2024, at 10:52 a.m.
4. On March 10, 2025, Commission staff unsuccessfully attempted to contact Respondent. The following day the Respondent contacted Commission staff and advised that he required assistance with his filing.

5. On July 2, 2025, following the filing of the Complaint, Respondent filed his 2023 Pre-Election CDR in which he disclosed no money was received or expended in furtherance of his election.

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 the evidence presented, the Commission hereby determines there is probable cause to believe that Respondent violated Section 8-13-1308(A) by failing to timely file a 2023 Pre-Election CDR. However, given that Respondent has acted to correct these errors, and in light of the mitigating facts listed herein, the Commission hereby waives further 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 11th DAY OF February, 2026.

SOUTH CAROLINA ETHICS COMMISSION


F. XAVIER STARKES, CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina