

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:

CASE NUMBER

c 2025-086

COMPLAINT FORM

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

**RESPONDENT:** Daniel Hassell  
**ADDRESS:** [REDACTED]  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** [REDACTED]  
**TITLE:** Former Ellore Water System Board  
Member and Candidate – Orangeburg County School  
Board District 2

Section 8-13-1110, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires certain officials to file a Statement of Economic Interests prior to assuming the duties of the office. Records in the State Ethics Commission indicate that the Respondent was required to file the 2024 Statement of Economic Interests in January 2024 as an Ellore Water System Board 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 16, 2024 and October 21, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 election for Orangeburg County School Board District 2.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by letters dated September 20, 2024 and November 1, 2024 as described in the attached. To date, a properly completed Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure and 2024 Statement of Economic Interests have not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1110, 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  
9th day of October, 2025

[REDACTED]  
Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director

[REDACTED]  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission expires 01/22/26

SEC-7 (Revised 3/2022)

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STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
COUNTY OF RICHLAND	)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
	)	
IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
COMPLAINT C2025-086	)	
	)	
State Ethics Commission,	)	
Complainant,	)	<b>DECISION AND ORDER</b>
	)	
Daniel Hassell,	)	
Respondent.	)	
_____	)	

This matter came before the South Carolina Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on October 9, 2025. The Commission’s Executive Director reviewed the Complaint, determined it contained facts sufficient to warrant an investigation, and ordered an investigation. On March 19, 2026, the Commission reviewed the Complaint and investigative findings to determine whether probable cause existed to charge Daniel Hassell (Respondent) with violations of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act). For the reasons stated herein, the Commission finds probable causes exists, but waives further proceedings.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

1. On November 7, 2023, Respondent was elected to the Elloree Water System Board of Commissioners (Water System Board) as a write-in candidate. Respondent was sworn into office in January 2024 and served until his resignation in November 2024.
2. Respondent did not file a 2024 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) prior to taking his oath of office.
3. Respondent was also an unsuccessful candidate in a November 5, 2024, election for Orangeburg County School District (School) Board of Trustees (Board).
4. Respondent did not file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) prior to the November 5, 2024, election.
5. In a September 20, 2024, certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to file

*JK #1*

a 2024 SEI.

6. On September 25, 2024, Respondent's wife contacted the Commission about the contents of the letter. Respondent's wife also advised that they would not be able to pick up the letter from the post office. The letter was subsequently returned to the Commission as Unclaimed.
7. On November 1, 2024, the Commission re-mailed the certified letter via first-class mail with a tracking number. According to the United States Postal Service, this letter was delivered to Respondent's address of record on November 4, 2024 at 1:53 p.m.
8. Receiving no response, the Complaint was filed on October 9, 2025.
9. On October 23, 2025, Respondent filed a 2024 SEI and a 2024 Pre-Election CDR disclosing no contributions or expenditures.
10. On January 20, 2026, Commission Investigator Ryanne Caldwell spoke to Respondent's wife, who explained that Respondent was recently diagnosed with metastatic renal cancer and would be unable to participate in the complaint process. Respondent's wife further advised that any filing error was unintentional and noted that Respondent had filed all requisite reports.

### 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 the 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.

Section 8-13-1110(A) provides, in relevant part:

JH #2

No public official, regardless of compensation, and no public member or public employee as designated in subsection (B) may take the oath of office or enter upon his official responsibilities unless he has filed a statement of economic interests in accordance with the provisions of this chapter with the appropriate supervisory office. If a public official, public member, or public employee referred to in this section has no economic interests to disclose, he shall nevertheless file a statement of inactivity to that effect with the appropriate supervisory office. All disclosure statements are matters of public record open to inspection upon request.

Section 8-13-1308(A) provides, in relevant part:

. . . a candidate who does not receive or expend campaign contributions totaling an accumulated aggregate of five hundred dollars or more must file an initial certified campaign report fifteen days before an election.

#### DISCUSSION AND DECISION

Section 8-13-1110 requires all public officials to file an SEI prior to taking the oath of office. In addition, Section 8-13-1308(A) requires all candidates to file a Pre-Election CDR prior to each election, regardless of the amount of money raised or spent. Here, it is clear that Section 8-13-1110 required Respondent to file an SEI prior to taking the oath of office as a Water System Board member. It is also clear that Section 8-13-1308(A) required Respondent to file a Pre-Election CDR prior to his November 5, 2024, election for School Board. Thus, based on the evidence presented, the Commission hereby determines there is probable cause to believe that Respondent violated Sections 8-13-1110 and 8-13-1308(A) of the Ethics Act when he failed to file these reports. However, in light of the above discussion, and based on the totality of the circumstances, the Commission hereby waives further proceedings pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i).

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 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF April, 2026.

SOUTH CAROLINA ETHICS COMMISSION

  
F. XAVIER STARKES, CHAIRMAN