

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

RECEIVED  
AUG 4 AM 11:56  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:  
CASE NUMBER  
c 2020-047

COMPLAINT FORM

COMPLAINANT: T.F. Finklea, Jr.

RESPONDENT: Charles D. Taylor

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]

TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]

TITLE: Dillon County Councilman

TITLE: Candidate for Dillon County Council

Set forth in detail specific facts upon which you based your complaint against above-named respondent (only detailed, clear factual allegations will be considered. If additional space is needed, attach supplemental sheets).

My complaint is that Charles Taylor failed to file the required candidate financial filings required by the S.C. Ethics Commission even though he met the requirements to have to file. He spent well in excess of \$500 beginning with his filing fee. He ran numercus ads in The Dillon Herald newspaper and The Dillon County Shopper. He had signs of all sizes placed throughout the district, In addition, against the law, he placed several flyers on mailboxes instead of mailing them through the post office. This shows further money spent that was not reported. I have attached several documents which back up these claims including his filing papers, a sample of the ads placed, photos of his signs, photo of the flyer on a mailbox, etc. All candidates should have to make the required filings, and I don't think he should be excused because he lost the election. Thank you for your consideration.

All investigations, inquiries, hearings, and accompanying documents must remain confidential unless respondent waives the right to confidentiality. 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. The willful release of confidential information is a misdemeanor, and any person releasing such confidential information, upon conviction, must be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or imprisoned not more than one year. Section 8-13-320(10)(g).

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF Richland

Personally appeared before me T. F. Finklea, Jr. who, first being duly sworn, says that he/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 his/her own knowledge, except for those matters therein based upon information and belief, and as to those he/she believes them to be true.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this  
30th day of July, 2020

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

Complainant Signature

Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission expires February 27, 2024

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

SEC-7 (Revised 8/2019)

REPLY TO: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210 (803)253-4192

FAXED COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

SCANNED  
8/4/2020  
10:11 AM  
JB

2020 AUG -4 AM 11:57

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

C102form

2020 AUG -4


## Statement of Intention of Candidacy & Party Pledge

This form must be filed with the appropriate election office by any candidate seeking a political party's nomination. All information on this form will be made available to the public at the time of filing. For more information, visit [www.scVOTES.org/candidate-information](http://www.scVOTES.org/candidate-information).

Name	Charles Taylor			Party	Democratic
Office	Dillon County Council			District	4
Voter Reg. #	171384761	Primary or Convention Date	6-9-2020	Election Date	11/03/2020
<i>Name on ballot may be any combination of a candidate's given name, derivative of the given name, or nickname. A derivative name or nickname must be used in good faith for honest purposes and may not imply professional or social status, an office, or military rank. A nickname may not exceed 15 letters.</i>					
Name on Ballot	Charles Taylor				
Name pronunciation, if necessary, for audio ballot (e.g., Jackson Gervais: jur-VAY)					
Candidate Contact Information (address not required to be residence address)					
Address	2050 Summer Rd	City	Dillon	Zip	29536
Phone		Email			
Party Pledge (Party Pledge not applicable to designees for the Office of Lieutenant Governor)					
I hereby file my notice as a candidate for the nomination as <u>Dillon County Council 4</u>					
in the primary election or convention to be held on <u>June 9 2020</u> . I affiliate with the <u>Democratic</u> Party, and I hereby pledge myself to abide by the results of the primary or convention. I shall not authorize my name to be placed on the general election ballot by petition and will not offer or campaign as a write-in candidate for this office or any other office for which the party has a nominee. I authorize the issuance of an injunction upon ex parte application by the party chairman, as provided by law, should I violate this pledge by offering or campaigning in the ensuing general election for election to this office or any other office for which a nominee has been elected in the party primary election, unless the nominee for the office has become deceased or otherwise disqualified for election in the ensuing general election.					
<b>Candidate's Oath</b>					
I hereby affirm that I meet, or will meet by the time of the general or special election, or as otherwise required by law, the qualifications for this office.					
Candidate Signature				Date <u>03/16/2020</u>	
Candidate must sign in the presence of an Election Official or Notary Public.					
Election Official Signature					
Date Received	<u>3-16-2020</u>	Time Received	<u>1:39 pm</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> SEC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Dillon</u> County Board	
<b>For use if candidate signs in presence of Notary Public</b>					
Name of Notary Public			My Commission Expires		
Signature of Notary Public			Date		

Shows he filed as a candidate

Filing Fee Receipt

Candidate Name	Charles D Taylor		
Party	Democratic		
Office	County Council District, 04	District	04
Election	11/3/2020, Statewide General Election (21112)		
Amount of Filing Fee	\$603.34		
Date Received	03/16/2020		
Time Received	1:39 PM		
Check Number	101		
Receiving Official	Laurie Cook		
Signature		Date	3-16-20

The Candidate Filing Receipt is issued pursuant to S.C. Code of Laws 7-11-15(E)

Shows he paid \$603.34  
to file as a candidate



[Public Disclosure](#) > [Individual Reports](#) > [Candidates](#)

## Individual Reports Candidates

### Selected

**Last Name:** Taylor  
**Office:** County Council  
**County:** Dillon  
**Election Year:** 2020

Click on candidate name to view report(s).



\*\*\* No Records Found. \*\*\*



No report filed

### Public Disclosure

- [Individual Reports](#)
- [Candidates](#)
- [Committees](#)
- [Statement of Economic Interests](#)
- Contributions
- Expenditures
- Lobbying Activity

### Electronic Filing

SC State Ethics Commission

### Contact Us

[Back](#)

[Start Over >](#)



The flyer he posted illegally on mailboxes



**Sandra Sweatt Elliott**

Active 19m ago



JUN 05, 3:37 PM

Why does this Taylor man keep sending flyers in the mail I have already put at least 10 of these in the trash every body knows he's running for county council 😡

← A Facebook message showing he did multiple mailings



Because his backers have given him that much money to waste to beat someone in Buzzy Finklea when he decided not to follow everyone else.

You aren't putting Charles Taylor into office. You are giving those people backing him another voice on council.



|Aa





A picture of several signs he  
placed through one area



A picture of one of his large signs

ROUTE 3210 DILLON  
1120 Hwy. 301 North, Dillon  
843-774-3779



1107 Radford Blvd.  
Dillon  
843-774-6688

**Coward's Towing**

In An Accident?  
Request us and receive

**\$100 cash!**

Brad Coward, Manager  
2518 Hwy. 9 West, Dillon  
843-774-4331

24-hour towing  
Insurance jobs welcome

• ALL Major Credit Cards Accepted

Rowland, Troy Sanderson, Lenneau B. Stone, Jack B. Whittington, Jeston C. Williamson, Utah Windom, James E. W

**KOREA**

Henry Wilson Berry, Wesley Brumble; Harold Pearce, Monroe Perry Jr., John C. M. Wiggins, Evans Randolph, Jr., Wade Powell

**VIETNAM**

Luther Bethea, Jr., David L. Brunson; Wylie C. King, Billy C. McDaniels, Gale Palmer, Joseph H. Sullivan.

**IRAQ**

Chad Owens

**SOUTHERN STATES**  
Little Rock  
843-774-5619

**Pope's**  
FURNITURE APPLIANCES  
"Everything for the Home"  
315 E. Main St., Dillon  
843-774-8255

**Marlboro**  
  
BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE  
676 Hwy. 9 East  
Bennettsville, S.C. 29512  
843-479-3855 or 1-800-922-9174  
www.marlborelectric.net  
www.marlboredevelopment.com

**Dillon Heating & Cooling**  
Tanner Brothers  
  
706 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Dillon  
843-774-8871

**Fresh Beginnings Christian Center**  
Pastor Ricky Gilchrist  
2220 Hwy. 9 W.  
Dillon • 843-774-7778

**Dillon Body Shop**  
1304 Hwy. 301 North  
Dillon 843-774-2407

**FIRST BANK**  
LOCALFIRSTBANK.COM  
  
MEMBER FDIC  
Equal Housing Lender  
101 West Main Street, Dillon 843-841-0444  
206 East Monroe Street, Dillon 843-841-9955  
101 E. Leitner St., Latta 843-752-7139

**St. John Missionary Baptist Church**  
Dr. William J. Walker  
215 Covington Street  
Latta • 843-752-5051

**Latta United Methodist Church**  
Rev. Michael Rouse  
306 North Marion Street  
Latta • 843-752-5432

**St. Matthew A.M.E. Church**  
Rev. Dr. Orlando M. McCauley, Pastor  
405 Elkins Rd.  
Hamer • 843-774-9421

**Manning Baptist Church**  
Rev. Rodney McCorkle  
308 East Calhoun Street  
Dillon

**CHARLES TAYLOR**  
COUNTY COUNCIL DIST. 4  
June 9, 2020  
WILL WORK TO UPDATE  
DILLON COUNTY AIRPORT  
pd. pot adv.

# pper

Postal Patron  
ECRWSS

PSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
DILLON, S.C.  
PERMIT # 83

301 North, Dillon, S.C. 843-774-3311; Fax 843-841-1930 Tuesday, June 9, 2020

# Vote Tray Rogers

## Dillon County Sheriff

### Tuesday, June 9

Experience • Integrity • Leadership



Thankful for all of our  
partners who assist our  
customers before, during, and  
after severe weather.

**&  
Inc.**   
dillontractor.com  
1417 Hwy. 301 S., Dillon  
843-774-9081

### OPEN LETTER TO THE REGISTERED VOTERS AND PEOPLE OF DILLON COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT FOUR



*As a county councilman, I think you should have a vision as to what you want to get done. There are 5 goals I want to accomplish:*

1. Complete the Dillon County Airport project. (Industries in the county have requested it.)
2. Workforce development: (College Credits at Northeastern Technical College for 11th and 12th grade students to learn a trade.)
3. Work with Economic Development to bring industry to the Latta area and I-95/181 exit.
4. Write grants for different projects in the Latta District Four area and all of Dillon County.
5. Work on fixing dirt roads and drainage issues throughout District Four.

*In closing, we need a council that works for all the people of Dillon County. I have seen Dillon County go through 6 County Administrators at a cost of more than \$100,000 in bought-out contracts in the last 10 years. This must stop! The taxpayers deserve better.*

*As a councilman, we should remember that it is about the*

**Vote and Elect  
Douglas  
"Humbunny"  
Pernell  
for Sheriff  
of Dillon County**



pd. pol. adv.

**OPEN LETTER TO THE  
REGISTERED VOTERS AND  
PEOPLE OF DILLON COUNTY  
COUNCIL DISTRICT FOUR**



*As a county councilman, I think you should have a vision as to what you want to get done. There are 5 goals I want to accomplish:*

1. Complete the Dillon County Airport project. (Industries in the county have requested it.)
2. Workforce development: (College Credits at Northeastern Technical College for 11th and 12th grade students to learn a trade.)
3. Work with Economic Development to bring industry to the Latta area and I-95/181 exit.
4. Write grants for different projects in the Latta District Four area and all of Dillon County.
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*In closing, we need a council that works for all the people of Dillon County. I have seen Dillon County go through 6 County Administrators at a cost of more than \$100,000 in bought-out contracts in the last 10 years. This must stop! The taxpayers deserve better.*

*As a councilman, we should remember that it is about the people we serve in our district. It is not about one's self or one's power. It is about serving the people.*

**June 9, 2020 **VOTE****

**CHARLES TAYLOR**

**DILLON COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 4**

**Change is Coming!!**

pd. pol. adv.

A perfect lawn. No a perfect matche



Get a fast, p Kubota qual



**DILLON T**



**KubotaUSA.com**

©Kubota Tractor Corporation 2020. \$0 D inventory is available to qualified purchas per \$1,000 financed. Offer expires 6/30/21 monthly payment is due 7/1/20. 90 day nc and warranties, express or implied, or any Dealer or go to KubotaUSA.com.

e Governor's stay-at-home  
 magnet, and pen. The distri-  
 Charles Carmichael, and

## mer After Fire

rtment responded to the blaze.  
 ult by providing financial assis-  
 essentials.



serve non-traditional servic-  
 cluding pre-taped services,  
 and drive-in church due to  
 d in purple, at Latta United  
 ber of the reason for Easter.  
 Dillon Herald)

## County Council District Two

I, Larry Abraham, am seek-  
 ing the Dillon County Council  
 District Two seat.

This covers Lake View,  
 Kemper, Fork, Gaddy's Mill,  
 Ford Town, Oven Bottom,  
 Bermuda, Sugar Hill, and  
 Hayes Town.

Due to the COVID-19 pan-  
 demic, I cannot visit your  
 homes and I am sorry that I  
 cannot ask for your vote in per-  
 son.

I want you to know me and  
 what I am about as a leader.

I have outlined what I would  
 do when elected as your coun-  
 cilman on my website  
 (www.labraham.com), and on  
 YouTube (Larry Abraham For  
 Councilman). Please visit these



**LARRY ABRAHAM**

sites and see what Larry  
 Abraham is about.

Again, when you go to the  
 polls on June 9, 2020, please  
 vote Larry Abraham for County  
 Councilman District Two.

## Charles Taylor Seeking Dillon County Council District Four Seat

Charles Taylor is seeking the  
 District Four County Council  
 Seat.

Taylor was reared in Dillon  
 County. He is a graduate of  
 Latta High School. He is mar-  
 ried and has four children who  
 all graduated from Latta High  
 School. His wife is Loretta  
 Bartlett Taylor, who has been  
 employed by the Latta School  
 system for 20 years.

Charles is an active member  
 of East Dillon Baptist Church,  
 where he is a Sunday School  
 teacher and Brotherhood  
 Director. Charles is also the  
 Chaplain for the Omar Shrine  
 Temple.

Taylor wants to make a dif-  
 ference in Dillon County.

"I am seeking election  
 because this county needs  
 change. We need working  
 councilmen. I have passion for  
 serving and helping others. If  
 elected, I will strive to bring  
 industry, with the help of the  
 Economic Development Board,  
 and jobs to District Four and  
 the rest of the county. I also  
 want to get the Airport project  
 back in operation. I will contin-  
 ue to support our educational



**CHARLES TAYLOR**

leaders in Dillon County," said  
 Taylor.

Taylor says he will serve all  
 of Dillon County, especially  
 District 4. He will be visible  
 and available at all times, not  
 just during election time.

"Change can't happen unless  
 you make change," said Taylor.  
 "If elected, I promise to devote  
 my time to serving Dillon dis-  
 trict 4 and all of Dillon coun-  
 ty."

Please support and vote for  
 Charles Taylor on June 9.

*shows he is running for  
 election*



LAKE VIEW ELEMENTARY teachers are spreading love and cheer for their students during their distant learning time. STAY LAKE VIEW ELEMENTARY STRONG. The teachers are April Buffington and Sarah Lane, 1st grade. Shown are some pictures expressing the LVES spirit. (Contributed by Eula Page)

# Closed...Continued From Page 5A

Recreational and athletic facilities and activities as follows:

- Fitness and exercise centers and commercial gyms
- Spas and public or commercial swimming pools

commercial swimming pools

- Group exercise facilities, including yoga, barre, and studios or facilities
- Spectator sports
- Sports that involve interaction with another person in close proximity and within less than six (6) feet of another person

Activities that require the use of shared sporting apparatus and equipment

Activities on commercial public playground equipment

Close-contact service providers as follows:

- Barber shops
- Hair salons
- Waxing salons
- Threading salons
- Nail salons and spas
- Body-art facilities and tattoo services
- Tanning salons
- Massage-therapy establishments and massage services

Clarification Assistance provided by the South Carolina Department of Commerce

If a business has a question as to whether they qualify as an essential business, they should complete the Essential Business Clarification form located on the South Carolina Department of Commerce website, which

Change Is Coming

**VOTE and ELECT**

CHARLES TAYLOR for COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT #4

☆☆ I PLEDGE! ☆☆

- To Work To Bring Jobs To Dillon County...
- To Support Our Education System To Prepare Our Children For The Future...
- To Stay In Touch With The Community Other Than At Election Time...
- To Work To Clean Up Our Community...
- To Work To Rebuild Our County Airport...

CANDIDATE FOR ALL PEOPLE!

Member of East Dillon Baptist Church  
Sunday School Teacher  
Dalcho Masonic Lodge #160  
Chaplain for Omar Shrine Temple  
Chairman of Accommodations Tax Board for Dillon County  
Commercial Airplane/Helicopter Pilot  
pd. pol. adv.

To Our Valued Customers

Continuing to serve our friends and customers is of the highest importance, but we urge everyone to take precautions and be safe.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
COUNTY OF RICHLAND	)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
	)	
IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
Complaint C2020-047	)	
	)	
Charles D. Taylor	)	<b>NOTICE OF HEARING</b>
Respondent.	)	
	)	
T.F. Finlea	)	
Complainant.	)	
_____	)	

The State Ethics Commission has determined that there is probable cause pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, to support the allegations made in the above-captioned complaint. The Commission will convene a formal hearing into the matter in accordance with Section 8-13-320(10)(i) & (j), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, and State Ethics Commission Regulations, S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-707 (1997 Cum. Supp.) on Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. at the Commission Hearing Room located at: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

The following allegations will be heard:

**COUNT ONE**  
**FAILURE TO FILE A PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(D), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Charles D. Taylor, candidate for Dillon County Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2020 pre-election campaign disclosure report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D)

**COUNT TWO**  
**FAILURE TO FILE A QUARTERLY CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Charles D. Taylor, candidate for Dillon County Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a quarterly campaign disclosure report due April 10, 2020, in violation of Section 8-13-

1308(B).

**COUNT THREE**  
**FAILURE TO FILE A QUARTERLY CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Charles D. Taylor, candidate for Dillon County Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a quarterly campaign disclosure report due July 10, 2020, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

**COUNT FOUR**  
**FAILURE TO FILE A QUARTERLY AND FINAL CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE**  
**REPORT**  
**SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Charles D. Taylor, candidate for Dillon County Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a quarterly campaign disclosure report due October 10, 2020 and a final campaign disclosure report, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

You have the right to be represented by counsel, the right to call and examine witnesses, the right to introduce exhibits, and the right to cross-examine opposing witnesses. This hearing will be open to the public as required by Section 8-13-320(10)(j), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended. The procedures to be followed are set forth in the Administrative Procedures Act, Section 1-23-10, et seq., Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976 as amended the State Ethics Act, Section 8-13-100, et seq., Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, and State Ethics Commission Regulations, S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-707 (1997 Cum. Supp.).

A pre-hearing conference may be scheduled prior to the hearing to allow exchange of witness lists and evidence, marking of exhibits, and disposition of motions or pleadings. In the event you fail to appear, judgment by default will be rendered against you. If there are any questions concerning the above notice or hearing times, please contact the State Ethics

Commission.



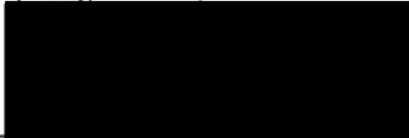
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Meghan D. Walker, Executive Director  
State Ethics Commission

Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day,  
of July 2021.

*Certificate of Service by Certified Mail*

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Charles D. Taylor, 2050 Summer Rd, Dillon, SC 29536 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July 2021, by CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.

  
**Richard A. Provencher, Administrative Assistant**  
State Ethics Commission (803) 253-4192

Columbia, South Carolina

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 COUNTY OF RICHLAND )  
 )  
 IN THE MATTER OF: )  
 COMPLAINT C2020-047 )  
 )  
 T.F. Finlea, Jr., )  
 Complainant, )  
 )  
 Charles D. Taylor, )  
 Respondent. )  
 \_\_\_\_\_ )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

RECEIVED  
 2021 OCT 7 AM 11:30  
 STATE ETHICS  
 COMMISSION

**CONSENT ORDER**

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on August 4, 2020. Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act), the Complaint against Charles D. Taylor (Respondent) was considered by the Commission and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing. Prior to the call of the case, Respondent agreed to entry of the following:

**STATEMENTS OF FACT**

1. Respondent was an unsuccessful candidate for Dillon County Council in a June 9, 2020 primary election.
2. Respondent did not file any Campaign Disclosure Reports (CDR) prior to the election.
3. On September 8, 2020, following the filing of the Complaint, a Commission Investigator contacted Respondent. Respondent stated he did not believe he needed to file anything after losing the primary election.
4. Respondent's campaign bank account records were subpoenaed and reviewed. According to the records, Respondent contributed \$3,034.99 of his own money to his campaign and made thirteen (13) campaign expenditures to expend that same amount.
5. On October 5, 2020, Respondent filed an April 10, 2020/Initial CDR, a Pre-Election CDR, a July 10, 2020 CDR, and an October 10, 2020/Final CDR to accurately reflect his campaign activity.

**LOGGED**

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Based upon the Statements of Fact, the Commission concludes, as a matter of law:

1. At all times relevant, Respondent was a “candidate” pursuant to Section 8-13-1300(4).

Therefore, the Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.

2. Section 8-13-1308 provides, in relevant part:

(A) Upon the receipt or expenditure of campaign contributions or the making of independent expenditures totaling an accumulated aggregate of five hundred dollars or more, a candidate or committee required to file a statement of organization pursuant to Section 8-13-1304(A) must file an initial certified campaign report within ten days of these initial receipts or expenditures. However, 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.

(B) Following the filing of an initial certified campaign report, additional certified campaign reports must be filed within ten days following the end of each calendar quarter in which contributions are received or expenditures are made, whether before or after an election until the campaign account undergoes final disbursement . . .

...

(D)(1) At least fifteen days before an election, a certified campaign report must be filed showing contributions of more than one hundred dollars and expenditures to or by the candidate or committee for the period ending twenty days before the election . . .

3. Section 8-13-1510(A) provides:

Except as otherwise specifically provided in this chapter, a person required to file a report or statement under this chapter who files a late statement or report or fails to file a required statement or report must be assessed a civil penalty as follows: (1) a fine of one hundred dollars if the statement or report is not filed within five days after the established deadline provided by law in this chapter; and (2) after notice has been given by certified or registered mail that a required statement or report has not been filed, a fine of ten dollars per calendar day for the first ten days after notice has been given, and one hundred dollars for each additional calendar day in which the required statement or report is not filed, not exceeding five thousand dollars.

4. Section 8-13-130 allows the Commission to “levy an enforcement or administrative fee on a person who is in violation” of the Ethics Act.

### **DISCUSSION**

The Commission found probable cause to charge Respondent with one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1308(D)(1) for failing to file a Pre-Election CDR fifteen to twenty days prior to his June 9, 2020 primary election. The Commission further found probable cause to charge Respondent with two (2) counts of violating Section 8-13-1308(B) for failing to file an April 10, 2020/Initial CDR and a July 10, 2020 CDR.<sup>1</sup> In mitigation, Respondent states he did not believe he needed to file anything with the Commission because he lost the primary election. The Commission notes that no late-filing penalties accrued with respect to the Pre-Election, April 10, 2020/Initial CDR, or the July 10, 2020 CDR because Respondent did not receive certified notice from the Commission prior to coming into compliance. See Section 8-13-1510 (limiting late-filing penalties to \$100 per late-filed CDR unless certified notice is received).

### **DISPOSITION**

1. The Commission hereby finds Respondent in violation of one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1) and two (2) counts of Section 8-13-1308(B).
2. The Commission hereby adopts the Statements of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Discussion, and Disposition as agreed upon by the Respondent.

THEREFORE, the Commission hereby issues a written warning and orders the Respondent to pay the Commission, within thirty (30) days from receipt of this Order, a late-filing penalty of \$100 for the Pre-Election CDR, a late-filing penalty of \$100 for the April 10, 2020/Initial CDR, a

---

<sup>1</sup> Based on the Respondent's campaign bank account records, the Commission also found probable cause to believe Respondent violated Section 8-13-1308(F) for failing to disclose numerous contributions and expenditures in his CDRs. However, given that Respondent is being charged with failure to file the corresponding CDRs, the Commission declines to further pursue these charges. The Commission also found probable cause to believe Respondent violated Section 8-13-1308(B) by failing to file an October 10, 2020 CDR. However, given that Respondent filed this CDR on October 5, 2020, this finding was in error and the Commission therefore dismisses this charge.

late-filing penalty of \$100 for the July 10, 2020 CDR, and an administrative fee of \$200, for a total of \$500.

By executing this Consent Order, Respondent understands that he is not only admitting to violations of the Ethics Act, but also confessing to a judgment of \$500 (less any money paid to the Commission) in the event he does not make full and timely payment as provided for in this Order. In that event, the Commission shall file a Judgment against Respondent in the Clerk of Court's Office in the County of Respondent's last known residence. Upon said filing, the Clerk of Court shall enter this Order in the amount of \$500 (less any money paid to the Commission) in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 11 DAY OF October 2021.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

  
CHILDs CANTEY THRASHER, CHAIR

  
CHARLES D. TAYLOR  
RESPONDENT