

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
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FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:  
CASE NUMBER  
C 2022-106

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Olin L. Altman, Jr.  
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]  
TITLE: Candidate – Town of Johnsonville Council

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 \$500; 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 sent an email reminder thirty days before the Campaign Disclosure deadline.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by a certified letter dated March 21, 2022 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 L. Walker 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  
14th day of September 2022

[REDACTED]  
Meghan L. Walker, Executive Director

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

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 C2022-106 )

State Ethics Commission, )  
Complainant. )

**DECISION AND ORDER**

Olin L. Altman, Jr. )  
Respondent. )

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
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This matter came before the South Carolina Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on September 14, 2022. The Commission’s Executive Director reviewed the Complaint, determined it contained facts sufficient to warrant an investigation, and ordered an investigation. On November 17, 2022, the Commission reviewed the Complaint and investigative findings to determine whether probable cause existed to charge Olin L. Altman, Jr. (Respondent) with violating 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. Respondent was a candidate in a November 2, 2021 election for Johnsonville Town Council.
2. Respondent submitted his Statement of Intention of Candidacy (SIC) to the Town on August 10, 2021.
3. Respondent failed to file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) before the November 2, 2021 election.
4. In a March 21, 2022 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to file a Pre-Election CDR. According to the United States Postal Service, this letter was delivered to Respondent’s address of record on April 4, 2022 at 9:41 a.m.

5. On September 26, 2022, following the filing of the Complaint, a Commission Investigator contacted the Respondent. Respondent advised that he withdrew from the election two (2) weeks after filing his SIC. Respondent stated he contacted the Town staff and informed them of his intention to withdraw.
6. According to Town officials, the proper way to withdraw from an election is to submit a written statement to the County Election Commission.
7. On September 26, 2022, Respondent came into compliance by filing his Pre-Election CDR.

### **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.

### **DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

Based on evidence presented, the Commission hereby determines there is probable cause to believe that Respondent violated Section 8-13-1308(D)(1) of the Ethics Act. However, in light of the above-discussion, and based on the totality of the circumstances, the Commission hereby waives further proceedings on the 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 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF January, 2023.

SOUTH CAROLINA ETHICS COMMISSION



SCOTTE. FRICK, ACTING CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina