

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:
CASE NUMBER
c 2024-091

COMPLAINT FORM

COMPLAINANT: State Ethics Commission
ADDRESS: 201 Executive Center Drive
Suite 150
Columbia, SC 29210

RESPONDENT: Sheena Paige
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: Candidate – City of Newberry Council

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (803) 253-4192

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 no later between October 18, 2023 and October 23, 2023.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by letters dated December 15, 2023 and January 19, 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
21st day of November, 2024

[REDACTED]
Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director

[Signature]
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)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
Complaint C2024-091)
State Ethics Commission)
Complainant.)
Sheena Paige)
Respondent.)
_____)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

NOTICE OF HEARING

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, 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, February 19, 2026 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 CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Sheena Paige, candidate for Newberry City Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2023 Quarter 4 Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR), in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Sheena Paige, candidate for Newberry City Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2024 Quarter 1 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Sheena Paige, candidate for Newberry City Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2024 Quarter 2 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Sheena Paige, candidate for Newberry City Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2024 Quarter 3 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT FIVE
FAILURE TO FILE PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(D)(1), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Sheena Paige, candidate for Newberry City Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2023 Pre-Election CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1).

COUNT SIX
FAILURE TO DISCLOSE CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Sheena Paige, candidate for Newberry City Council, did in Richland County, fail to disclose a November 1, 2023 expenditure to the WKDK in the amount of \$224.00, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT SEVEN
FAILURE TO DISCLOSE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Sheena Paige, candidate for Newberry City Council, did in Richland County, fail to disclose a \$100.00 campaign contribution received from Darlane V. McGill on October 13, 2023, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT EIGHT
FAILURE TO MAKE EXPENDITURE THROUGH CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Sheena Paige, candidate for Newberry City Council, did in Richland County, fail to make four (4) campaign expenditures through her campaign bank account, totaling \$6,565.24, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT NINE
FAILURE TO DEPOSIT CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Sheena Paige, candidate for Newberry City Council, did in Richland County, fail to deposit campaign contributions totaling \$6,686.00 into her campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT TEN
USE OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS FOR PERSONAL EXPENSES
SECTION 8-13-1348(A), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Sheena Paige, candidate for Newberry City Council, did in Richland County, use campaign funds totaling \$500.00 to purchase gas, in violation of Section 8-13-1348(A).

COUNT ELEVEN
FAILURE TO MAINTAIN CAMPAIGN RECORDS
SECTION 8-13-1302, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Sheena Paige, candidate for Newberry City Council, did in Richland County, fail to maintain campaign records, in violation of Section 8-13-1302.

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.



Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director
State Ethics Commission

Dated this 28th day,
of July 2025.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND) BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
))
IN THE MATTER OF:))
))
Complaint C2024-091))
))
State Ethics Commission) **AMENDED**
Complainant.) **NOTICE OF HEARING**
))
Sheena Paige))
Respondent.))
_____)

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, 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, April 16, 2026 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 CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(B), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Sheena Paige, candidate for Newberry City Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2023 Quarter 4 Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR), in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Sheena Paige, candidate for Newberry City Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2024 Quarter 1 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Sheena Paige, candidate for Newberry City Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2024 Quarter 2 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

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

That Sheena Paige, candidate for Newberry City Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2024 Quarter 3 CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).

COUNT FIVE
FAILURE TO FILE PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(D)(1), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Sheena Paige, candidate for Newberry City Council, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2023 Pre-Election CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1).

COUNT SIX
FAILURE TO DISCLOSE CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Sheena Paige, candidate for Newberry City Council, did in Richland County, fail to disclose a November 1, 2023 expenditure to the WKDK in the amount of \$224.00, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT SEVEN
FAILURE TO DISCLOSE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION
SECTION 8-13-1308(F), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Sheena Paige, candidate for Newberry City Council, did in Richland County, fail to disclose a \$100.00 campaign contribution received from Darlane V. McGill on October 13, 2023, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(F).

COUNT EIGHT
FAILURE TO MAKE EXPENDITURE THROUGH CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Sheena Paige, candidate for Newberry City Council, did in Richland County, fail to make four (4) campaign expenditures through her campaign bank account, totaling \$6,565.24, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT NINE
FAILURE TO DEPOSIT CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS
SECTION 8-13-1312, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Sheena Paige, candidate for Newberry City Council, did in Richland County, fail to deposit campaign contributions totaling \$6,686.00 into her campaign bank account, in violation of Section 8-13-1312.

COUNT TEN
USE OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS FOR PERSONAL EXPENSES
SECTION 8-13-1348(A), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Sheena Paige, candidate for Newberry City Council, did in Richland County, use campaign funds totaling \$500.00 to purchase gas, in violation of Section 8-13-1348(A).

COUNT ELEVEN
FAILURE TO MAINTAIN CAMPAIGN RECORDS
SECTION 8-13-1302, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Sheena Paige, candidate for Newberry City Council, did in Richland County, fail to maintain campaign records, in violation of Section 8-13-1302.

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.



Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director
State Ethics Commission

Dated this 16th day,
of December 2025.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2024-091)
State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant.)
Sheena Paige,)
Respondent.)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

DECISION AND ORDER

Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act of 1991 (Ethics Act), the Commission reviewed the above-captioned complaint against Sheena Paige (Respondent) and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing. Present at the hearing on April 16, 2026, were Commissioners Matthew N. Tyler, F. Xavier Starkes, and Mary Hunter B. Tomlinson, Hearing Chair. Respondent was duly notified of the hearing but failed to appear.¹ The Commission was represented by Courtney M. Laster, Esq. The following charges were considered: one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1) for failing to file a 2023 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR); four (4)

¹ During the Panel hearing, Commission Investigator Timothy Plunkett testified that Respondent owns two (2) residences in Newberry, South Carolina – one (1) located at 2008 Charles Street and one (1) located at 2012 Charles Street. Investigator Plunkett testified he unsuccessfully attempted to serve Respondent at these addresses on November 29, 2025 and December 4, 2025. Investigator Plunkett stated that he also traveled to these addresses on December 17, 2025, at which time he observed two (2) unidentified individuals exiting 2012 Charles Street. According to Investigator Plunkett, the individuals refused to speak to him. Investigator Plunkett therefore affixed copies of the Notice of Hearing to the front doors of 2008 and 2012 Charles Street. Investigator Plunkett testified Respondent texted him later that day and stated that 2008 Charles Street was her primary residence. Finally, Investigator Plunkett testified that Commission staff mailed two (2) copies of the Notice of Hearing to 2008 Charles Street on January 21, 2026 – one (1) copy was sent via certified mail and one (1) copy was sent via first-class mail with a United States Postal Service tracking number. According to Investigator Plunkett, the certified mail was returned to the Commission as unclaimed and the first-class mail with a tracking number was delivered to Respondent's primary residence on January 26, 2026. Based on this information, the Panel finds Respondent was properly notified of the April 16, 2026 hearing on January 26, 2026.

counts of Section 8-13-1308(B) for failing to timely file CDRs in Quarter 4 2023, Quarter 1 2024, Quarter 2 2024, and Quarter 3 2024; two (2) counts of Section 8-13-1312 for failing to use a campaign bank account; one (1) count of Section 8-13-1348 for personal use of campaign funds;² and one (1) count of Section 8-13-1302 for failing to maintain campaign records.³

FINDINGS OF FACT

Having carefully reviewed the evidence presented, the Panel finds as fact:

1. Respondent was an unsuccessful candidate for Newberry City Council in a November 7, 2023 election.
2. Respondent did not file a Pre-Election CDR prior to the November 7, 2023 election.
3. In a December 15, 2023 certified letter mailed to P.O. Box 454 in Newberry, the Commission notified Respondent of her failure to file the 2023 Pre-Election CDR. This letter was subsequently returned to the Commission as unclaimed.
4. On January 19, 2024, the Commission re-mailed the certified letter to the same P.O. Box via first-class mail with a United States Postal Service (USPS) tracking number. According to USPS, this letter was delivered on January 22, 2024.
5. On July 29, August 5, and August 7, 2024, Commission staff emailed Respondent advising her of the requirement to file a 2023 Pre-Election CDR. Respondent replied on August 7, 2024, complaining that her election was unfair and stating that she “spent [her] own money mostly”

² The Notice of Hearing alleged Respondent used campaign funds for personal use in the amount of \$500.00 in violation of Section 8-13-1348. Prior to the Panel hearing, Commission staff asked to amend this amount to \$61.50. The Panel granted the request.

³ The Notice of Hearing also contained two (2) counts of Section 8-13-1308(F) for failure to disclose campaign contributions and expenditures. Given that Respondent was also charged with failing to file the corresponding CDRs, the Panel dismissed these counts on the motion of Commission staff.

on the campaign. However, Respondent still did not file the 2023 Pre-Election CDR.

6. On November 21, 2024, the Complaint was filed alleging Respondent failed to timely file the 2023 Pre-Election CDR.⁴ A copy of the Complaint was mailed to P.O. Box 454 in Newberry via certified mail, but was subsequently returned to the Commission as unclaimed.
7. On January 7, 2025, Respondent filed the 2023 Pre-Election CDR and a Quarter 4 2023 CDR. Respondent marked the Quarter 4 2023 CDR as a Final CDR and reflected a zero balance of contributions therein.
8. On January 17, 2025, Investigator Timothy Plunkett contacted Respondent via telephone. Respondent stated she had not received the Complaint and advised that she had not used P.O. Box 454 in over a year. Respondent agreed to accept service of the Complaint electronically.
9. Investigator Plunkett subsequently obtained Respondent's campaign bank account records. Comparing these records with Respondent's 2023 Pre-Election and Quarter 4 2023 CDRs revealed the following relevant information:

- a. Respondent opened the campaign bank account on September 1, 2023.
- b. Although Respondent marked her Quarter 4 2023 CDR as a Final CDR, Respondent's campaign bank account did not reach a zero balance until July 2, 2024.
- c. Respondent's CDRs reflected three November 7, 2023 expenditures that did not appear within the campaign bank account records: \$3,600.00 for Youth Flyer Distributors, \$1,500.00 for Website Creation & Maintenance, and \$1,125.00 for Food and Beverages.
- d. Respondent's CDRs reflected a November 7, 2023 expenditure for "Gas to operate Vehicles" in the amount of \$500.65. However, the campaign bank account records only showed one November 14, 2023 expenditure to Murphy Oil in the amount of

⁴ Based upon information later discovered in Respondent's campaign bank account records, Respondent was ultimately required to file additional CDRs. However, Commission staff did not have access to Respondent's campaign bank account records at the time the Complaint was filed. Therefore, the allegation in the Complaint was limited to Respondent's failure to file a 2023 Pre-Election CDR.

\$61.50.

- e. Respondent's CDRs reflected a November 7, 2023 expenditure for Social Media Management in the amount of \$500.00. However, the campaign bank account records showed that only \$159.76 was expended for this purpose.
 - f. Respondent's CDRs reflected that she received \$7,500.00 in contributions. However, the campaign bank account records showed that Respondent only deposited a total of \$802.00 into the account.
10. Following this review and comparison, Investigator Plunkett requested numerous documents from Respondent, to include a mileage log, receipts, and invoices related to her campaign expenditures. Respondent failed to provide any of the requested records.
11. Investigator Plunkett also asked Respondent to clarify the discrepancies, noted above, between her CDRs and campaign bank account records. In her written response, Respondent admitted to paying for campaign expenditures in cash.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the Findings 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. Respondent's 2023 Pre-Election CDR was due fifteen (15) days prior to the November 7, 2023 election. However, Respondent did not file this CDR until January 7, 2025, in violation of Section 8-13-1308, which 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 . . . must file an initial certified campaign report within ten days of these initial receipts or expenditures . . .

(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. Respondent's Quarter 4 2023 CDR was due on or before January 10, 2024. However, Respondent did not file this CDR until January 7, 2025, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B), which provides:

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 pursuant to the provisions of Section 8-13-1370.

4. Because Respondent's campaign bank account closed on July 2, 2024, she was required to file a Quarter 1 2024 CDR, a Quarter 2 2024 CDR, and a Quarter 3 2024 CDR. As of the date of the Panel Hearing, Respondent had not filed any of these CDRs, all in violation of Section 8-13-1308(B).
5. Respondent failed to maintain and provide records related to her campaign expenditures in violation of Section 8-13-1302, which provides:

(A) A candidate, committee, or ballot measure committee must maintain and preserve an account of: (1) the total amount of contributions accepted by the candidate, committee, or ballot measure committee; (2) the name and address of each person making a contribution and the amount and date of receipt of each contribution; (3) the total amount of expenditures made by or on behalf of the candidate, committee, or ballot measure committee; (4) the name and address of each person to whom an expenditure is made including the date, amount, purpose, and beneficiary of the expenditure; (5) all receipted bills, canceled checks, or other proof of payment for each expenditure; and (6) the occupation of each person making a contribution.

(B) The candidate, committee, or ballot measure committee must maintain and preserve all receipted bills and accounts required by this article for four years.

6. Respondent failed to use a campaign bank account for expenditures totaling \$6,565.24 and contributions totaling \$6,698.00, (all outlined in Paragraph 9 in the Findings of Fact) in

violation of Section 8-13-1312, which provides, in relevant part:

Except as otherwise provided under Section 8-13-1348(C), expenses paid on behalf of a candidate or committee must be drawn from the campaign account and issued on a check signed by the candidate or a duly authorized officer of a committee. All contributions received by the candidate or committee, directly or indirectly, must be deposited in the campaign bank account by the candidate or committee within ten days after receipt.

7. Respondent used \$61.50 in campaign funds to purchase fuel, but failed to maintain a mileage log in violation of Section 8-13-1348(A), which provides, in relevant part:

No candidate, committee, public official, or political party may use campaign funds to defray personal expenses which are unrelated to the campaign or the office if the candidate is an officeholder nor may these funds be converted to personal use.

8. 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.

9. Sections 8-13-130 and 8-13-320(10) allow the Panel to levy an administrative fee and to require payment of a civil penalty of up to \$2,000.00 for each violation of the Ethics Act.

DECISION

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Panel has determined, based on a preponderance of evidence, that Respondent Sheena Paige is in violation of one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308 for failing to timely file a 2023 Pre-Election CDR; four (4) counts of Section 8-13-1308(B) for failing to timely file CDRs in Quarter 4 2023, Quarter 1 2024, Quarter 2 2024, and Quarter 3 2024; two (2) counts of Section 8-13-1312 for

failing to use a campaign bank account; one (1) count of Section 8-13-1348 for using \$61.50 in campaign funds to purchase gas without maintaining a mileage log; and one count of Section 8-13-1302 for failing to maintain campaign records.

THEREFORE, Respondent is hereby Publicly Reprimanded and assessed a late-filing penalty of \$15,200.00,⁵ a civil penalty of \$8,000.00 (\$2,000.00 for each violation of Section 8-13-1302, Section 8-13-1312, and Section 8-13-1348), and an administrative fee of \$1,500.00, for a total of \$24,700.00.

AND, Respondent is hereby ordered to pay \$61.50 (the amount of campaign funds spent in violation of Section 8-13-1348) to the Children's Trust Fund and to provide proof of such payment to the Commission.

AND, pursuant to Section 8-13-320 of the Ethics Act, if the \$24,700.00 is not paid to the Commission and the \$61.50 is not paid to the Children's Trust Fund, with proof of payment provided to the Commission, within sixty (60) days from Respondent's receipt of this Order, a judgment in the amount of \$24,761.50 shall be entered against Respondent. In the event of a failure to pay, upon the Commission's filing of said Judgment with the Clerk of Court's Office in the County of Respondent's last known residence, the Clerk of Court shall enter this Order in the amount of \$24,761.50, less any money paid, in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

⁵ Pursuant to Section 8-13-1510, Respondent's late-filing penalties are assessed as follows: \$100.00 for the 2023 Pre-Election CDR, \$100.00 for the Quarter 4 2023 CDR, and \$5,000.00 each for the Quarter 1 2024 CDR, Quarter 2 2024 CDR, and Quarter 3 2024 CDR. According to Section 8-13-1510(A)(1), the late-filing penalty for the 2023 Pre-Election CDR and Quarter 4 2023 CDR is limited to \$100.00 each because Respondent filed these CDRs on January 7, 2025, after the filing deadlines, but prior to receiving notice from the Commission of her failure to file. As to the remaining CDRs, the Panel finds Respondent received notice from the Commission of her failure to file these reports on January 26, 2025 when she received the Notice of Hearing. Because Respondent has still not filed these reports, she has reached the maximum late-filing penalty of \$5,000.00 for each CDR pursuant to Section 8-13-1510(A)(2).

FINALLY, Respondent Sheena Paige has ten (10) days from receipt of this Order to appeal this Decision and Order to the full Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 4th DAY OF May 2026.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



MARY HUNTER B. TOMLINSON, HEARING CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina