

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:

CASE NUMBER

C 2025-068

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Robert Liles
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: Town of McBee Council

Section 8-13-1140, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires the filing of an updated Statement of Economic Interests for the previous calendar year annually thereafter prior to March 30. Records in the State Ethics Commission indicate that the Respondent was required to file the 2025 Statement of Economic Interests.

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.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirements by a certified letter dated April 23, 2025 as described in the attached. To date, a properly completed 2025 Statement of Economic Interests and Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure have not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1140, 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
22nd day of JULY, 2025

[REDACTED]
Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director

[REDACTED]
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	)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
	)	
IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
Complaint C2025-068	)	
	)	
State Ethics Commission	)	NOTICE OF HEARING
Complainant.	)	
	)	
Robert Liles	)	
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, August 20, 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 PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 8-13-1308(A), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Robert Liles, candidate for the Town of McBee Council, failed to file a 2024 Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR), in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A).

COUNT TWO
FAILURE TO FILE STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS
SECTION 8-13-1140, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Robert Liles, councilman for the Town of McBee, failed to file a 2025 Statement of Economic Interests on or before March 30, 2025, in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

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.).

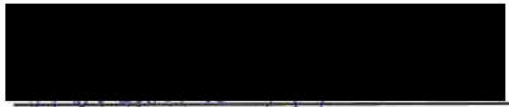
A pre-hearing conference may be scheduled prior to the hearing to allow exchange of witness lists and evidence, marking of exhibits, and disposition of motions or pleadings. In the event you fail to appear, judgment by default will be rendered against you. If there are any questions concerning the above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


Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director
State Ethics Commission

Dated this 21st day,
of May 2026

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on RESPONDENT Robert Liles, 14 W. Juniper Avenue, McBee, SC 29101 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 22 day of May 2026, by CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.


Maquita S. Kessler, Paralegal
State Ethics Commission

Columbia, South Carolina

(803) 253-4192

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2025-068)

State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant.)

CONSENT ORDER

Robert Liles,)
Respondent.)

This matter comes before the South Carolina State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a complaint filed on July 22, 2025. Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act), the Complaint against Robert Liles (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 the following:

STATEMENTS OF FACT

1. Respondent has served on the McBee Town Council (Council) since 2020. Prior to the filing of the Complaint, Respondent's most recent election occurred on November 5, 2024.
2. Respondent did not file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) prior to the November 5, 2024 election.
3. Respondent did not file a 2025 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) by March 30, 2025.
4. In an April 23, 2025 certified letter mailed, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to timely file the 2024 Pre-Election CDR and the 2025 SEI.
5. According to the United States Postal Service, the certified letter was delivered to Respondent's address of record and signed for by Respondent on April 25, 2025.
6. On May 5, 2025, late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$10.00 per day, per report.

NDT

7. On May 15, 2025, late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$100.00 per day, per report.
8. Respondent received the Complaint via certified mail on August 4, 2025.
9. On August 6, 2025, Commission Investigator Reginald Gaymon contacted Respondent via telephone. Respondent acknowledged that he did not timely file the 2024 Pre-Election CDR and the 2025 SEI.
10. On August 8, 2025, Respondent filed the 2024 Pre-Election CDR disclosing no contributions or expenditures. However, Respondent did not file the 2025 SEI.
11. On March 24, 2026, Investigator Gaymon contacted Respondent via telephone to advise Respondent that he still had not filed the 2025 SEI. Respondent filed the 2025 SEI immediately after his telephone call with Investigator Gaymon.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

1. At all times relevant, Respondent was a public official, as defined by Section 8-13-100(27), and a candidate, as defined by Section 8-13-1300(4). Therefore, the Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.
2. As a candidate, Respondent failed to file a Pre-Election CDR fifteen (15) days prior to his November 5, 2024 election, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A), which 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.
3. As a public official, Respondent failed to file a 2025 SEI by March 30, 2025, in violation of Section 8-13-1140, which provides, in relevant part:

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A person required to file a statement of economic interests under this chapter annually shall file, pursuant to Section 8-13-365, an updated statement for the previous calendar year, no later than noon on March thirtieth of each calendar year.

DISCUSSION

The Commission found probable cause to charge Respondent with one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308(A) for failing to file a 2024 Pre-Election CDR prior to the November 5, 2024 election and one (1) count of Section 8-13-1140 for failing to file a 2025 SEI by March 30, 2025. Through this Consent Order, Respondent admits that he violated the Ethics Act in these instances. In mitigation, Respondent acknowledges receipt of the Commission's April 23, 2025 certified letter, but advises that he was diagnosed with prostate cancer in early 2024 and that his treatment, which lasted approximately two (2) years, caused him to neglect his filing responsibilities. Respondent also advises that he was unable to work from March of 2024 through March of 2026 due to this diagnosis.

DISPOSITION

1. The Commission hereby finds Respondent in violation of one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308(A) and one (1) count of Section 8-13-1140.
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 this Public Reprimand to Respondent for violations of the Ethics Act;

AND orders Respondent to pay to the Commission, within ninety (90) days of receipt of this Order, a late-filing penalty of \$100.00 (\$50.00 per report) and an administrative fee of \$500.00, for a total of \$600.00. The Commission declines to assess the accrued late-filing penalties given the mitigation discussed herein.

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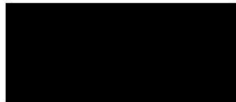
By executing this Consent Order, Respondent understands that he is not only admitting violations of the Act but also confessing to a judgment of \$900.00 (the amount of the reduced late-filing penalty plus a \$700.00 administrative fee to account for the increased administrative costs in filing a judgement) in the event he does not make full and timely payment or action as provided in this Order. In that event, the Commission shall file a Judgment against Respondent in the County of Respondent's last known residence. Upon said filing, the Clerk of Court shall enter this Order in the amount of \$900.00 (less any money paid to the Commission) in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

AND IT IS ORDERED THIS 20TH DAY OF JULY 2026.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



NEAL D. TRUSLOW



ROBERT LILES
RESPONDENT