

Official Use Only 2026-001
Date Received:

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
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STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
201 Executive Center Drive
Suite 150
Columbia, SC 29210
ETHICS ACT COMPLAINT FORM

Section 1. READ BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM:

Investigative Authority: The Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (the Act) gives the State Ethics Commission (Commission) the authority to investigate complaints against candidates, public officials, public members, public employees, at the state or local government level in South Carolina as well as lobbyists, and lobbyist's principals.

The Commission has the authority to investigate violations of Title 8, Chapter 13 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 2, Chapter 17 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 59, Chapter 150 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, various provisions of Title 42, Chapter 3 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and various provisions of Title 58, Chapter 3 of the South Carolina Code of Laws

Statute of Limitations: Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(9)(d) of the Act, the Commission cannot take action on a complaint more than four years after the violation is alleged to have occurred.

Blackout Period: Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(9)(b)(1) of the Act, no complaint may be accepted against a candidate for elective office during the fifty-day period before an election in which he is a candidate.

Please note that the Commission does not have the jurisdiction to investigate alleged violations of South Carolina's Freedom of Information Act, violations of the criminal code, instances of rude or discourteous treatment, federal officials, or violations of local ordinances, policies, or procedures.

Section 2. PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING A COMPLAINT:

Complaints must be submitted by mailing the original of a fully completed complaint form to the Commission at 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, SC 29210. Failing to completely fill out the complaint form will result in the form being returned to you without an investigation being opened. Complaint forms must be either typed or written in clear, legible handwriting.

Both the Complainant and the Respondent have the right to be represented by legal counsel of their choosing. If either the complainant and/or the respondent chooses to be represented by legal counsel, they do so at their own expense.

Section 3. CONFIDENTIALITY:

Complaint forms become public documents if the Commission finds probable cause that a violation of law has occurred. Please note that upon receiving a properly filed complaint form, the Commission will share an unredacted copy of the complaint with the Respondent whether or not an investigation is ordered.

Section 4. COMPLAINT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Please check each circle to acknowledge that you have read and understand the following:

- I understand that I may be called to testify in an administrative or criminal proceeding should probable cause be found on this matter.
- I understand that I may be subpoenaed to sit for a deposition where I will be required to answer questions under oath.
- I understand that my name, address, and phone number will be shared with the Respondent.
- I understand that my name may be made public by the Respondent or the Commission.

Section 5. CHECK THE POSITION OF THE PERSON AGAINST WHOM THIS COMPLAINT IS FILED:

- Candidate for public office
- Elected official at the state or local level
- Employee of local or state government
- Lobbyist
- Lobbyist's Principal
- Member of South Carolina Legislature
- Public member (a person appointed to a part-time board, commission, or council at the state or local level)

Section 6. COMPLAINANT AND RESPONDENT INFORMATION:

I. PERSON BRINGING THE COMPLAINT (COMPLAINANT)			
Name:	State Ethics Commission		
Address:	201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150		
City:	Columbia	State: SC	Zip Code: 29210
Telephone	(803) 253-4192	Email Address:	
II. PERSON AGAINST WHOM COMPLAINT IS BROUGHT (RESPONDENT)			
Name:	Atwood I. McIntosh, Jr.		
Address:	[REDACTED]		
City:	[REDACTED]	State: [REDACTED]	Zip Code: [REDACTED]
Telephone	[REDACTED]		

Section 7. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS COMPLAINT COMES FROM:

- Personal knowledge
- Media Reports
- From a third-party
- Other
- Please specify: _____

Section 8: STATEMENT OF FACTS (Please state the actions of the Respondent upon which your ethics complaint is based):

Section 8-13-1120, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires disclosure of the source, type, and amount of income from a governmental entity and a listing of the private source and type of any income received by the filer or a member of the filer's immediate family during the reporting period. Respondent failed to report private income from Homegrown Cotton on the 2022, 2023, and 2024 Statement of Economic Interests.

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 19, 2022 and October 24, 2022 for the November 8, 2022 election.

Respondent was reminded of the Pre-Election filing requirement by a certified letter dated September 13, 2024 as described in the attached. To date, a properly completed Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure, 2025 Statement of Economic Interests, or properly amended 2022, 2023, and 2024 Statement of Economic Interests have not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1120, 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.

Section 9. VERIFICATION BY OATH OR AFFIRMATION - ORIGINAL NOTARY AND SIGNATURES REQUIRED:

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF RICHLAND

Personally appeared before me Meghan Walker Dayson who, first being duly sworn, says that he 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 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
8th day of JANUARY, 2026



Meghan Walker Dayson
Executive Director



Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission expires 01/22/26

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
Complaint C2026-001)
State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant.)
Atwood I. McIntosh, Jr.,)
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, June 18, 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 DISCLOSE PRIVATE SOURCE OF INCOME
SECTION 8-13-1120(A), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Atwood I. McIntosh, Jr., Williamsburg County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner, failed to disclose Irwin McIntosh, Inc., as a private source of income in his 2022, 2023, and 2024 Statements of Economic Interests, in violation of Section 8-13-1120(A)(10).

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

That Atwood I. McIntosh, Jr., Williamsburg County Soil and Water Conservation District


Commissioner, failed to timely file a 2025 Statement of Economic Interests, in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

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

That Atwood I. McIntosh, Jr., Williamsburg County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner, failed to timely file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report between October 19, 2022 and October 24, 2022, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A).

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 19th day,
of March 2026.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on RESPONDENT Atwood I. McIntosh, Jr., 588 McIntosh Road, Kingstree, SC 29556 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 23 day of March 2026, by CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.



Erin Caughman
State Ethics Commission

Columbia, South Carolina

(803) 253-4192

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF RICHLAND

IN THE MATTER OF:
COMPLAINT C2026-001

State Ethics Commission,
Complainant,

v.

Atwood I. McIntosh,
Respondent.

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

CONSENT ORDER

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on January 8, 2026. Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act), the Complaint against Atwood I. McIntosh (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 was elected to the Williamsburg County Soil and Water Conservation District (District) in 2014. Most recently, Respondent was a successful candidate in a November 8, 2022 election.
2. Respondent timely filed a 2022 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) on March 30, 2022, but failed to disclose any sources of private income therein.
3. Respondent did not file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) prior to the November 8, 2022 election.
4. Respondent filed his 2023 SEI late on March 30, 2024. Respondent failed to disclose any sources of private income therein.

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5. In a September 13, 2024 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to file timely the 2022 Pre-Election CDR and 2023 SEI. The Commission also notified Respondent of his failure to file a 2024 SEI, which was not filed as of the date of the letter. The Commission assessed a \$300.00 late-filing penalty (\$100.00 per report) and advised Respondent that additional late-filing penalties would accrue with regard to the 2022 Pre-Election CDR and 2024 SEI if Respondent did not file these reports within ten (10) days from his receipt of the letter.
6. On September 16, 2024, the certified letter was delivered to Respondent's address of record.
7. On September 23, 2024, Respondent filed the 2024 SEI, but did not file the 2022 Pre-Election CDR. Respondent did not disclose any sources of private income in his 2024 SEI.
8. On September 26, 2024, late filing penalties for the 2022 Pre-Election CDR began accruing at \$10.00 per day.
9. On October 6, 2024, late filing penalties for the 2022 Pre-Election CDR began accruing at \$100.00 per day.
10. Respondent did not file a 2025 SEI on or before March 30, 2025.
11. On December 11, 2025, Commission staff unsuccessfully attempted to contact Respondent regarding his 2022 Pre-Election CDR.
12. On January 8, 2026, the Complaint was filed alleging Respondent (1) failed to disclose private sources of income on his 2022, 2023, and 2024 SEIs; (2) failed to timely file a 2025 SEI; and (3) failed to timely file a 2022 Pre-Election CDR.¹

¹ The Complaint did not include Respondent's failure to file the 2023 and 2024 SEI because these reports were filed prior to the filing of the Complaint. Commission records indicate Respondent was charged a \$100.00 late-filing penalty for each of these reports through the Governmental Enterprise Accounts Receivable (GEAR) collection program. As such, these reports are not part of the current Complaint.

JX #2

13. On February 3, 2026, Respondent filed the 2022 Pre-Election CDR disclosing no campaign contributions received and no campaign expenditures made. Respondent also filed his 2025 SEI and amended his 2022, 2023, and 2024 SEIs to properly disclose private sources of income.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

1. At all times relevant, Respondent was a “public official” pursuant to Section 8-13-100(27) and a “candidate” pursuant to Section 8-13-1300(4). Therefore, the Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.

2. Respondent failed to disclose private sources of income on his 2022, 2023, and 2024 SEIs, in violation of Section 8-13-1120(A)(10), which provides, in relevant part:

A statement of economic interests filed pursuant to Section 8-13-1110 must be on forms prescribed by the State Ethics Commission and must contain full and complete information concerning...a listing of the private source and type of any income received in the previous year by the filer or a member of his immediate family.

3. Respondent failed to timely file a 2025 SEI, in violation of Section 8-13-1140, which provides, in relevant part:

A person required to file a statement of economic interests under this chapter shall annually 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.

4. Respondent failed to timely file a 2022 Pre-Election CDR, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(A), which provides, in relevant part:

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

JM #3

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.

5. In accordance with Section 8-13-1510(A), Respondent's late-filing penalties total \$5,100.00 (\$100.00 for the 2025 SEI² and \$5,000.00 for the 2022 Pre-Election CDR):

A person required to file a report or statement under this chapter who files a late 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 mail 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.

6. Section 8-13-320(10)(1) allows the Commission to issue a civil penalty of up to \$2,000.00 for each violation of the Ethics Act.
7. 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 three (3) counts of Section 8-13-1120 for failing to report private sources of income on his 2022, 2023, and 2024 SEIs;³ one (1) count of 8-13-1140 for failing to timely file a 2025 SEI; and one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308(A) for failing to timely file a 2022 Pre-Election CDR. Through this Consent Order, Respondent admits he violated the Ethics Act in these instances. In mitigation, Respondent states

² Respondent's late-filing penalty for the 2025 SEI is limited to \$100.00 because he did not receive certified notice of his failure to file this report prior to the filing of the Complaint.

³ These three (3) charges were consolidated into one (1) count in the Notice of Hearing.

JXL # 4

he believed he had filed the necessary reports when he logged into the Commission's electronic filing system on September 23, 2024 and filed the 2024 SEI. At the time, Respondent did not realize that he had additional reports to file. Respondent also states, and the Commission acknowledges, that this is his first Complaint before the Commission. The Commission further notes that Respondent has been cooperative with staff since the filing of the Complaint and is currently in compliance. Finally, Respondent states that he is not compensated for his service on the Conservation District Board.

DISPOSITION

1. The Commission finds Respondent in violation of one (1) count of Section 8-13-1120 for failing to report sources of private income on his 2022, 2023, and 2024 SEIs; one (1) count of Section 8-13-1140 for failing to timely file a 2025 SEI; and one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308(A) for failing to timely file a 2022 Pre-Election CDR.
2. The Commission adopts the Statements of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Discussion, and Disposition as agreed upon by the Respondent.

THEREFORE, the Commission hereby issues this written warning and orders Respondent to pay the Commission, within one-hundred and eighty (180) days of receipt of this Order, a reduced late-filing penalty of \$300.00⁴ and an administrative fee of \$400.00, for a total of \$700.00. The Commission declines to assess a civil penalty in light of the facts and mitigation outlined herein.

By executing this Consent Order, Respondent understands that he is confessing to a judgment of \$700.00 if he does not make payment as provided for in this Order, in which case the


⁴ This value reflects the sum of \$100.00 for Respondent's 2025 SEI and \$200.00 for the 2022 Pre-Election CDR.

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Commission shall file a judgment against Respondent with the County Clerk of Court in Respondent's last known county of residence, who shall enter this Order in the amount of \$700.00 (less any monies paid) in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED, THIS 18th DAY OF June, 2026.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION


F. Xavier Starke


ATWOOD I. MCINTOSH,
RESPONDENT