

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
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2026-005



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:	Quincy C. Sutton		
Address:	[REDACTED]		
City:	Swansea	State: SC	Zip Code: 29160
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 8-13-1110, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires certain officials to file a Statement of Economic Interests prior to assuming the duties of the office, and 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 2022 Statement of Economic Interests prior to taking the oath of office on December 12, 2022, the 2023 Statement of Economic Interests, the 2024 Statement of Economic Interests, and 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 for Lexington County School Board District 4.

Respondent was reminded of the Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure, 2022, and 2023 Statement of Economic Interests filing requirements by letters dated August 11, 2023 and January 5, 2024 as described in the attached. To date, a properly completed Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure, 2022 Statement of Economic Interests prior to taking the oath of office on December 12, 2022, the 2023 Statement of Economic Interests, the 2024 Statement of Economic Interests, and 2025 Statement of Economic Interests have not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1110, Section 8-13-1140, Section 8-13-1308(A), 8-13-1308(D)(1), and Section 8-13-1308 (F), S.C. Code Ann., 1976, as amended.

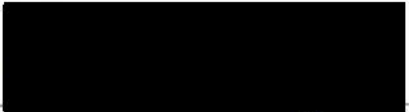
Section 9. VERIFICATION BY OATH OR AFFIRMATION - ORIGINAL NOTARY AND SIGNATURES REQUIRED:

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
20th day of January, 2020


Meghan Walker Dayson
Executive Director


Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission expires 01/24/26

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
Complaint C2026-005)
State Ethics Commission)
Complainant.)
Quincy C. Sutton)
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, 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(D)(1), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Quincy C. Sutton, candidate for Lexington County School District 4, failed to timely file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report prior to a November 8, 2022, election, in violation of Section 8-13-1308(D)(1).

COUNT TWO

**FAILURE TO TIMELY FILE STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS
SECTION 8-13-1110(A), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Quincy C. Sutton, candidate for Lexington County School District 4 Trustee, failed

to timely file a Statement of Economic Interests prior to taking the oath of office on December 12, 2022, in violation of Section 8-13-1110(A).

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

That Quincy C. Sutton, Lexington County School District 4 Trustee, failed to file a Statement of Economic Interests on or before March 30, 2023, in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

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

That Quincy C. Sutton, Lexington County School District 4 Trustee, failed to file a Statement of Economic Interests on or before March 30, 2024, in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

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

That Quincy C. Sutton, Lexington County School District 4 Trustee, failed to file a Statement of Economic Interests on or before March 30, 2025, in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

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

That Quincy C. Sutton, Lexington County School District 4 Trustee, failed to file a Statement of Economic Interests on or before March 30, 2026, 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 Quincy C. Sutton, 615 N. Brecon Avenue, Swansea, SC 29160, by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 02 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

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2026-005)

State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant.)

CONSENT ORDER

Quincy C. Sutton,)
Respondent.)

This matter comes before the South Carolina State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a complaint filed on January 20, 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 Quincy C. Sutton (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 serve on the Lexington County School District Four (District) Board of Trustees (Board) in a November 8, 2022 general election.¹
2. Respondent did not file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) prior to the November 8, 2022 election.
3. Respondent was sworn into office on December 12, 2022.
4. Respondent did not file a 2022 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) prior to taking oath of office.
5. Respondent did not file a 2023 SEI by March 30, 2023
6. In an August 11, 2023 certified letter, the Commission attempted to notify Respondent of his

¹ Respondent previously served on the District Board from 2017-2020.

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failure to file the 2022 Pre-Election CDR, 2022 SEI, and 2023 SEI. On November 1, 2023, the certified letter was returned to the Commission as “Returned to Sender – Unclaimed.”

7. On January 5, 2024, the letter was remailed via first-class mail with tracking. According to the United States Postal Service (USPS) the letter was “Delivered In/At Mailbox” at Respondent’s address of record. The return receipt provided by USPS did not contain Respondent’s signature.
8. Respondent did not file a 2024 SEI by March 30, 2024 or a 2025 SEI by March 30, 2025.
9. On January 14, 2025 and March 11, 2025, Respondent logged-in to the Commission’s electronic filing system and submitted a total of seventy-four (74) CDRs in conjunction with previous elections.² However, the 2022 Pre-Election CDR and the 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 SEIs remained unfiled.
10. In December of 2025, Commission staff contacted Respondent and began working with him to bring him into compliance. However, Respondent still did not file the required reports.
11. On January 21, 2026, a copy of the Complaint was mailed via certified mail to Respondent’s address of record. The Complaint was subsequently returned to the Commission as “Return to Sender – Unclaimed.”
12. On February 6, 2026, Commission Investigator W.B. White, Jr. contacted Respondent regarding service of the Complaint. Respondent accepted service of the Complaint via email on February 9, 2026.
13. On February 23, 2026, Investigator White spoke with Respondent via telephone. Respondent advised that he previously worked with Commission staff in 2025 in an attempt to come into compliance, but did not complete the filings.

² Each of the seventy-four (74) CDRs filed by Respondent reflected no campaign activity and a zero balance.

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14. During the Commission's investigation, Respondent did not file an SEI by March 30, 2026.
15. Respondent subsequently received additional assistance from Commission staff and has now filed the 2022 Pre-Election CDR and SEIs from 2022-2026.

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 2022 Pre-Election CDR fifteen (15) days prior to his November 8, 2022 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 SEI prior to taking the oath of office on December 12, 2022, in violation of Section 8-13-1110(A), which provides, in relevant part:

No public official, regardless of compensation, and no public member or public employee as designated in subsection (B) may take the oath of office or enter upon his official responsibilities unless he has filed a statement of economic interests in accordance with the provisions of this chapter with the appropriate supervisory office.

4. As a public official, Respondent failed to file updated SEIs prior to March 30 in 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026, 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 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.

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5. Section 8-13-1510(A) provides, in relevant part:

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.

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

DISCUSSION

The Commission found probable cause to charge Respondent with one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308 for failing to file a 2022 Pre-Election CDR prior to the November 8, 2022 election; one (1) count of Section 8-13-1110 for failing to file a SEI prior to taking the oath of office on December 12, 2022; and four (4) counts of Section 8-13-1140 for failing to file SEIs by March 30 in 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026. Through this Consent Order, Respondent admits that he violated the Ethics Act in these instances. In mitigation, Respondent states that he was made aware of his non-compliance when Commission staff contacted him via telephone in December of 2025. Respondent states that he did not receive the Commission's January 5, 2024 letter advising him of his failure to file. Respondent states that he had attempted to file several reports in January and March of 2025, but he now realizes he filed those reports in the wrong election cycles.

DISPOSITION

1. The Commission hereby finds Respondent in violation of one (1) count of Section 8-13-1308,

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one (1) count of Section 8-13-1110, and four (4) counts 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 the aforementioned violations of the Ethics Act;

AND orders Respondent to pay to the Commission, within six (6) months from his receipt of this Order, a late-filing penalty of \$600.00 (\$100.00 per report) and an administrative fee of \$500.00, for a total of \$1,100.00. The Commission notes that no accrued late-filing penalties are assessed pursuant to Section 8-13-1550(A)(2) given the uncertainty surrounding the delivery of the Commission's January 5, 2024 certified letter.

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 \$1,500.00 (the amount referenced above, plus an additional administrative fee of \$400.00 to account for the increased administrative costs associated with 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 \$1,500.00 (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

QUINCY C. SUTTON
RESPONDENT