

Official Use Only
Date Received:

2026-006

Rev. 11/2025

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
RECEIVED JAN 20 2026 PM 1:10:00



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:	Tina M. Davis	
Address:	[REDACTED]	
City:	York	State: SC Zip Code: 29745
Telephone		

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):

Pursuant to a confidential investigation, a Commission Investigator subpoenaed account records for the Town of Sharon. Upon review of the records, the Commission Investigator observed Town checks were written to, and signed by, Town Administrator Tina M. Davis, in violation of 8-13-700(A).

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
26th day of January, 2026



Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission expires 01/22/26



Meghan Walker Dayson
Executive Director

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
Complaint C2026-006)
State Ethics Commission)
Complainant.)
Tina M. Davis)
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
USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION OR OFFICE FOR FINANCIAL GAIN
SECTION 8-13-700 (A), S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Tina M Davis, town administrator for the Town of Sharon, knowingly used her official position to obtain an economic interest by signing thirty-five (35) checks to herself totaling \$15,370.18 from the Town of Sharon, all in violation of Section 8-13-700(A).

COUNT TWO
FAILURE TO TIMELY FILE STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS
SECTION 8-13-1110, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Tina M Davis, town administrator for the Town of Sharon, failed to file a Statement

of Economic Interests (SEI) for 2022, 2023, and 2024, in violation of Section 8-13-1110.

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.

Dated this 21st day,
of May 2026


Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director
State Ethics Commission

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on RESPONDENT Tina M Davis 1255 Oregon Trl, York, SC 29745 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 C2026-006)

State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant.)

CONSENT ORDER

Tina M. Davis,)
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 Tina M. Davis (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 served as Administrator in the Town of Sharon (Town) from May 2022 until December 2024. As Town Administrator, Respondent was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Town.
2. Respondent did not file a 2022 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) prior to assuming her official duties in May of 2022.
3. Respondent did not file an updated SEI by March 30 in 2023 or 2024.
4. During her tenure as Town Administrator, the Town had three (3) authorized signers for its checking account: Respondent, the Mayor, and the Mayor Pro-Tem.
5. From May 2022 through December 2024, Respondent signed thirty-five (35) payroll checks to herself.

NDT

6. Following the filing of the Complaint, Respondent was questioned by Commission Investigator W.B. White, Jr. According to Respondent, it was often difficult to find either the Mayor or the Mayor Pro Tem during business hours to sign her payroll checks, which sometimes resulted in her not being paid in a timely manner. Given this difficulty, Respondent began signing her own payroll checks without realizing that doing so was improper. As to the SEIs, Respondent advised that she was never informed that she was required to file a SEI and that, to her knowledge, previous Town Administrators did not file SEIs.
7. The Commission's investigation revealed that the payroll checks signed by Respondent represented compensation for work performed and approved by the Town and that all wages received were actually owed to Respondent.
8. The Commission's investigation also revealed that it was common practice in the Town for individuals to sign their own checks and that previous Town Administrators did not file SEIs.
9. On March 17, 2026, Respondent came into compliance by filing SEIs for 2022, 2023, and 2024.

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 employee, as defined by Section 8-13-100(25).
Therefore, the Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.
2. Section 8-13-700 prohibited Respondent from signing her own payroll checks:

(A) No [public employee] may knowingly use his official [employment] to obtain an economic interest for himself, a family member, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated. This prohibition does not extend to the incidental use of public materials, personnel, or equipment, subject to or available for a [public employee's] use that does not result in additional public expense.

NDT

(B) No [public employee] may make, participate in making, or in any way attempt to use his [employment] to influence a governmental decision in which he, a family member, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated has an economic interest. A [public employee] who, in the discharge of his official responsibilities, is required to take an action or make a decision which affects an economic interest of himself, a family member, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated shall:

(1) prepare a written statement describing the matter requiring action or decisions and the nature of his potential conflict of interest with respect to the action or decision;

...

(4) if he is a public employee, he shall furnish a copy of the statement to his superior, if any, who shall assign the matter to another employee who does not have a potential conflict of interest. If he has no immediate superior, he shall take the action prescribed by the [Commission].

3. In accordance with Section 8-13-1110, Respondent, as the Town's chief administrative employee, was required to file a SEI prior to entering upon her official responsibilities in May of 2022:

(A) No [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 . . .

(B) Each of the following public officials, public members, and public employees must file a statement of economic interests with the appropriate supervisory office, unless otherwise provided . . . (4) the city administrator, city manager, or chief municipal administrative official or employee, by whatever title . . .

4. In accordance with Section 8-13-1140, Respondent was required to file an updated SEI by March 30 in 2023 and 2024:

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.

NDT

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

. . . 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 . . .

5. 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.

6. Section 8-13-320(10)(l) allows the Commission to assess a \$2,000.00 civil penalty for violations of the Ethics Act.

DISCUSSION

The Commission found probable cause to charge Respondent with one (1) count of Section 8-13-700 for signing the aforementioned payroll checks and one (1) count of Section 8-13-1110 for failing to timely file SEIs in 2022, 2023, and 2024. Through this Consent Order, Respondent acknowledges that she violated the Ethics Act in these instances. In mitigation, Respondent states that she was unaware that signing her own payroll checks given that it was a decades-long practice within the Town for individuals to sign their own payroll checks. Respondent further states, and the Commission acknowledges, that she did not receive any money that she was not owed. As to the SEIs, Respondent states she was unaware of her filing obligations when she began working for the Town, which has a population of approximately 500 people. The Commission acknowledges that, although required, no previous Town Administrator had filed an SEI with the Commission. The Commission also notes that Respondent fully cooperated with the Commission’s investigation and promptly filed all outstanding SEIs once she was notified of the requirement to do so.

DISPOSITION

1. The Commission hereby finds Respondent in violation of one (1) count of Section 8-13-700(A) and one (1) count of Section 8-13-1110 as described herein.

NDT

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 Written Warning to Respondent. The Commission declines to assess any civil penalties or administrative fees given the facts and mitigation referenced herein.

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

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

NEAL D. Trawlow

TINA M. DAVIS
RESPONDENT