STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
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C2026-060

Rev. 11/2025

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:

- O Candidate for public office
- O ✓ Elected official at the state or local level
- O Employee of local or state government
- O Lobbyist
- O Lobbyist's Principal
- O Member of South Carolina Legislature
- O 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:	George Pressley		
Address:	288 Airport Road		
City:	Hemingway	**State:** SC	**Zip Code:** 29554
Telephone	(843) 605-5252		

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

- O ✓ Personal knowledge
- O Media Reports
- O From a third-party
- O Other
  - O 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. As a Councilman, Respondent failed to properly report government income on the 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 2026 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. As a candidate for Town of Stuckey Council, records of the State Ethics Commission indicate that a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure was due between October 18, 2023 and October 23, 2023 for the November 7, 2023 election.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirements by a certified letter dated December 2, 2024 as described in the attached. To date, a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure, properly amended 2024 Statement of Economic Interests, or 2026 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
15th day of June, 2026

[redacted]

Meghan Walker Dayson
Executive Director

[redacted]

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission expires March 14, 2033

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
RECEIVED 06/26/26 4:11:56

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF RICHLAND	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
IN THE MATTER OF: COMPLAINT C2026-060	
State Ethics Commission, Complainant.	**DECISION AND ORDER**
George Pressley, Respondent.	

This matter came before the South Carolina Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on June 15, 2026. On June 15, 2026, the Commission's Executive Director reviewed the Complaint, determined it contained sufficient facts to warrant an investigation, and ordered an investigation. On September 17, 2026, the Commission reviewed the Complaint and investigative findings to determine whether probable cause existed to charge George Pressley (Respondent) with violating the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act). For the reasons stated herein, the Commission finds probable cause exists but waives further proceedings.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. Respondent has served on the Stuckey Town Council since 2011. Prior to the filing of the Complaint, Respondent's most recent election was on November 7, 2023.
2. Respondent did not file a Pre-Election Campaign Disclosure Report (CDR) prior to the November 7, 2023 election.
3. In a December 2, 2024 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to file the 2023 Pre-Election CDR.
4. Respondent subsequently failed to file a 2026 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) on or before March 30, 2026.

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5. The Complaint was filed on June 15, 2026 and alleged, in relevant part, that Respondent failed to file the 2023 Pre-Election CDR and the 2026 SEI.
6. During the investigation, Commission Investigator Kevin Hinson contacted Respondent. Respondent acknowledged receiving the Commission's December 2, 2024 letter and the Complaint, but explained that he had difficulty reading them. Respondent informed Investigator Hinson that he was retired, on disability, and was 75 years old. Respondent stated his wife had the ability to read and asked Investigator Hinson to call back when his wife was available. As to the 2026 SEI, Respondent stated that the Town secretary had historically assisted him with his filings. However, the secretary had recently informed Respondent that she would no longer file Respondent's reports.
7. On July 9, 2026, with the assistance of Commission staff, Respondent's wife filed the 2023 Pre-Election CDR and the 2026 SEI.

LAW

Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(9)-(10), the Commission is empowered to receive complaints and conduct investigations related to violations of the Ethics Act. Following the receipt of a Complaint and the completion of a corresponding investigation, the Commission must determine whether there is probable cause to believe a violation of the Ethics Act occurred. Section 8-13-320(10)(i). If the Commission determines probable cause exists, it may order a hearing on the merits or, if the respondent has taken action to remedy or correct the alleged violation, it may waive further proceedings. Section 8-13-320(10)(i). The decision to waive further proceedings lies within the sound discretion of the Commission.

Section 8-13-1308(A) requires all candidates to file a Pre-Election CDR fifteen (15) days prior to each election. In addition, Section 8-13-1140 requires all public officials to file an annual

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SEI on or before March 30.

DISCUSSION AND DECISION

Based on the evidence presented, the Commission hereby determines that probable cause exists to believe that Respondent violated (1) Section 8-13-1308(A) when he failed to file a Pre-Election CDR prior to the November 7, 2023 election and (2) Section 8-13-1140 when he failed to file a 2026 SEI on or before March 30, 2026. However, Respondent has provided mitigating evidence to the Commission, as explained above.

THEREFORE, based on the totality of the circumstances, and pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i), the Commission hereby waives further proceedings.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 23 DAY OF OCTOBER, 2026.

SOUTH CAROLINA ETHICS COMMISSION

[redacted]

NEAL D. TRUSLOW, CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina