

STATE OF TENNESSEE



BUREAU OF ETHICS AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE TENNESSEE ETHICS COMMISSION

WRS Tennessee Tower, 26th Floor
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue
Nashville, TN 37243
(615) 741-7959
Fax: (615) 532-8905
www.tn.gov/tec

BOARD MEMBERS
Charles Traughber, Chair
Tammy S. White, Secretary
Stacey Floyd-Thomas
Duane Gilbert
Lynn Richardson
Martin G. McCain

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Bill Young

TENNESSEE ETHICS COMMISSION Public Meeting Minutes September 21, 2023

The Tennessee Ethics Commission met Thursday, September 21, 2023 for its regularly scheduled meeting. The meeting began at 9:00 AM and was held at the W.R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower, located at 312 Rosa L. Parks Ave., Nashville, TN, in the Multi-Media Room.

Presiding over the meeting was Commission Chairman Charles Traughber. Also attending the meeting were Commissioners Tammy White, Lynn Richardson, and Martin G. McCain. Commissioner Gilbert participated in the meeting via telephone. A quorum of members was physically present at all times. Executive Director Bill Young, Assistant Director Lance Frizzell, General Counsel Lauren Topping, and Chief of Staff Janet Williams were also in attendance. The Commission's meeting was recorded for the public and the video recording is to be made available on the Commission's website.

- 1. Approval of May 9, 2023 minutes.** Chairman Traughber requested the members to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2023 meeting as presented in the Commission's materials. Commissioner White moved to approve the meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by voice vote (5-0).

Commissioner White moved that certain items on the Commission's agenda be taken out of order to allow participants who were physically present at the meeting to have their matters heard first. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0). *(Although some items on the agenda were taken out of order, these minutes will continue to reflect the scheduled order of events according to the published agenda.)*

2. Settlement Proposal.

Eloise Ledford – 2023-033: Counsel for the Commission provided a summary of the facts and procedural history of this matter. After a short discussion, Commissioner White moved to rescind the civil penalties previously assessed in this matter and to take no further action. Commissioner Gilbert seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

3. Reconsiderations.

Origis Development LLC – 2023-238: Paul Beck appeared on behalf of the employer of a lobbyist and addressed the Commission. Director Young summarized the facts of this matter. After a short discussion, Commissioner White moved to reconsider the previously assessed civil penalties. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0). Commissioner White then moved to rescind the civil penalties previously assessed and to take no further action in this matter. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

Commissioner White moved to reconsider the following remaining items together. Commissioner McCain seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0). Commissioner White then moved to rescind the civil penalties assessed in each matter on the grounds that the outstanding filings had been filed in each case. Chairman Traughber seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0) (Commissioner Richardson recused in Case No. 2023-198).

Andy Ford – 2023-196
Chris Grindstaff – 2023-198
Jerry Hall – 2023-111
Sherry Inman – 2023-202

Waylon Inman – 2023-201
Patrick Denny Johnson – 2023-205
Bruce Manley – 2023-208
Jarrod Luke Robbins – 2023-048

4. Informal civil penalty assessment proceedings – Local Candidates

Sean Dailey – 2023-357: Mr. Dailey was present at the meeting and addressed the Commission. After a short discussion, Commissioner White moved to take no action. Commissioner McCain seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

Lelann Evans – 2023-359: Mr. Evans was present was present at the meeting and addressed the Commission. After a short discussion, Commissioner McCain moved to take no action. Commissioner White seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

Each of the following matters were considered together as a group. In each of these matters statement of interests had been filed with the Ethics Commission as required by Tennessee law after accruing between 1 and 7 civil penalty days. Commissioner White moved to take no action in these matters. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

Brandes Holcomb – 2023-240
Joy Smith Kimbrough – 2023-241
Donell Polk, Jr. – 2023-242
Tim Thompson – 2023-243

Fran Bush – 2023-355
Yolanda Hockett - -2023-358
Marcia Masulla – 2023-361

The following matters were considered together as a group. In each of these matters statement of interests had been filed with the Ethics Commission as required by Tennessee law after accruing

more than 30 civil penalty days. Commissioner White moved to take no action in these matters. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

Varonica Cooper – 2023-244

Freddie O’Connell – 2023-360

The following matters were considered together as a group. In each of these matters statement of interests had not been filed with the Ethics Commission as required by Tennessee law. Commissioner White moved to assess a civil penalty of \$1,000 in each matter. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

Robert Owens – 2023-042

Gwenda Woods – 2023-245

5. Informal civil penalty assessment proceedings – Local Officials

The following matters were considered together as a group. In each of these matters statement of interests had been filed with the Ethics Commission as required by Tennessee law after accruing between 1 and 7 civil penalty days. Commissioner White moved to take no action in these matters. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Cecil Giles – 2023-246

Patricia Rose Hostetler – 2023-253

Steven King – 2023-247

Cody Moss – 2023-254

Judith Dial – 2023-248

Obern Staples – 2023-255

Heath Ellis – 2023-249

Thomas Carper – 2023-256

Tonya Fuller McKellar – 2023-250

Preston George – 2023-356

Jimmy Potts – 2023-251

Marvin Lajoel Nance – 2023-354

Russell Barker – 2023-252

Marvin Lajoel Nance – 2023-257

Each of the following matters were considered together as a group. In each of these matters statement of interests had been filed with the Ethics Commission as required by Tennessee law after accruing between 8 and 14 civil penalty days. Commissioner Richardson moved to take no action in these matters. Chairman Traughber seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Jacob Frady – 2023-258

Kevin Costley – 2023-261

Nathaniel Jed Baker – 2023-259

Evetty Satterfield – 2023-262*

Darryl Chapman – 2023-260

(*Commissioner White recused).

Each of the following matters were considered together as a group. In each of these matters statement of interests had been filed with the Ethics Commission as required by Tennessee law after accruing between 15 and 30 civil penalty days. Commissioner Richardson moved to take no action in these matters. Commissioner McCain seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Nancy Barger – 2023-263*
(*Commissioner White recused)
Beth Longmire – 2023-264
Jerry Rhoton – 2023-265
Michael Brown – 2023-268

Wesley A. Rainey – 2023-331
Lizzy Schmidt – 2023-266
Roy Dale Hagan – 2023-267
Wendell Cates – 2023-269
Tiffany Lyles – 2023-316

Bill Lane – 2023-311: Mr. Lane was present at the meeting and addressed the Commission. After a short discussion, Commissioner White moved to take no action. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

Brad Bishop – 2023-276: Mr. Bishop was present at the meeting and addressed the Commission. After a short discussion, Commissioner White moved to take no action. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

Each of the following matters were considered together as a group. In each of these matters statement of interests had been filed with the Ethics Commission as required by Tennessee law after accruing more than 30 civil penalty days. Commissioner White moved to take no action in these matters. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Russell Bradshaw – 2023-270
Lisa Shirey – 2023-271
Bob Rial – 2023-272
Freda Christensen – 2023-286
William Byrd – 2023-280
Heath Robertson – 2023-335
John Reddick – 2023-333
Steve Carico – 2023-282
Sammy Dennis – 2023-292
Deborah Wade – 2023-341
Phyllis Townsend – 2023-339
Marvene Noel – 2023-326
Isaiah Davidson – 2023-290
Dennis Humphrey – 2023-306

Jason Rasnick – 2023-332
Robert Morris English, Jr. – 2023-293
Phil Shipley – 2023-337
Sean Gleason – 2023-296
Derrick Hammond – 2023-300
Latoya Holcomb – 2023-304
Jimmie Green – 2023-298
Randy Whitson – 2023-345
Joe Prichard – 2023-328
Rickey Wilson – 2023-346
Mike T. Fuller – 2023-295
Rebecca Hatfield Card – 2023-281
Steve Luellen – 2023-315

Christopher Singleton – 2023-338: Mr. Singleton was present at the meeting and addressed the Commission. After a short discussion, Commissioner White moved to take no action. Commissioner McCain seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

Each of the following matters were considered together as a group. In each of these matters statement of interests had not been filed with the Ethics Commission as required by Tennessee law. Commissioner White moved to assess a civil penalty of \$1,000 against each of these individuals. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

Joe Akins – 2023-273
Vicki Anderson – 2023-274
Victor Bonds – 2023-277
Lionel Borders – 2023-279
Gerard Bullock – 2023-361
James C. Cochran – 2023-287
Scott Glover – 2023-297
Roy Dale Hagan – 2023-303
John Hall – 2023-362
Angela Anderson King – 2023-309

D. Marty Lasley – 2023-312
Dabney Long – 2023-314
Thomas Margeson – 2023-318
Brian McGovern – 2023-323
Joshua Morris – 2023-324
Hal Mosier – 2023-325
Bill Phillips – 2023-327
Amy Rogers Dodson – 2023-336
Mary Warren – 2023-343
Wayne White – 2023-344

Each of the following matters were considered together as a group. In each of these matters statement of interests had not been filed with the Ethics Commission as required by Tennessee law. Commissioner White moved to assess a civil penalty of \$500 against each of these individuals. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

Lee Booker – 2023-278
Sara Carter – 2023-283
Carroll Crumbley – 2023-288
Jeremy Freeman – 2023-294
Steve Greene – 2023-299
Alana Hibbler – 2023-302

Joseph Lee Jones, Jr. – 2023-307
Todd Laessig – 2023-313
Jamie G. Mayo – 2023-320
Margaret Elizabeth Pritchard – 2023-329
Jerry Sharp – 2023-340

Each of the following matters were considered together as a group. In each of these matters either statement of interests had been filed with the Ethics Commission as required by Tennessee law after accruing more than 30 civil penalty days, or the Commission's Staff had determined that filing was not required. Commissioner White moved to take no action in these matters. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Benjamin Cataldo – 2023-284
Sherry Davis – 2023-291
Ed Henley – 2023-301
Gayla Hommel – 2023-305

Scottie Kizer – 2023-310*
(*Filing not required.)
Layla Ward – 2023-342*
(*Commissioner Richardson recused.)

6. Informal civil penalty assessment proceedings – State Candidates

Justin Jones – 2023-141: After a short discussion of the facts and history of this matter, Commissioner White moved to take no action on this matter. Commissioner McCain seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

Clifford Lewis – 2023-347: After a short discussion of the facts and history of this matter, Commissioner White moved to assess a civil penalty of \$1,000 in this matter. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

7. Informal civil penalty assessment proceedings – State Officials

Heidi Campbell – 2023-350: Senator Campbell was represented by Counsel, Ben Gastel, who appeared before the Commission on this matter. After a short discussion of the facts and history of this matter, Commissioner White moved to take no action in this matter. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

The following matters were considered together as a group. In each of these matters statement of interests had been filed with the Ethics Commission as required by Tennessee law after accruing between 1 and 7 civil penalty days. Commissioner White moved to take no action in these matters. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

Khadija Babb – 2023-348

Lisa Helton – 2023-349

Each of the following matters were considered together as a group. In each of these matters statement of interests had been filed with the Ethics Commission as required by Tennessee law after accruing more than 30 civil penalty days. Commissioner White moved to take no action in these matters. Commissioner McCain seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

London Lamar – 2023-352

Yolanda R. Kight – 2023-351

8. Informal civil penalty assessment proceedings – Lobbyists

Olivia Johnson – 2023-362: After a short discussion of the facts and history of this matter, Commissioner Richardson moved to take no action in this matter. Commissioner White seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

9. Informal civil penalty assessment proceedings – Employers of Lobbyists

The following matters were considered together as a group. In each of these matters, the employer of a lobbyist registration was submitted to the Commission after accruing 6 penalty days. After a short discussion, Commissioner White moved to take no action. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

National Waste and Recycling Association – 2023-365

National Waste and Recycling Association – 2023-366

National Waste and Recycling Association – 2023-367

The following matters were considered together as a group. In each case, submission of required filings or fees occurred after accruing between 1 and 25 penalty days. After a short discussion, Commissioner White moved to take no action. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

LifePoint Health – 2023-364

The Industrial Board of the City of Brownsville & Haywood County, TN – 2023-363

Cumberland Hospitality Group – 2023-368

The following matters were considered together as a group. In each case, submission of required expenditure reports occurred after more than 30 penalty days. After a short discussion, Commissioner White moved to take no action. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

Acorn Health of Tennessee, LLC – 2023-369:

DeVry University – 2023-370

10. Rescind civil penalty assessments.

After a short explanation to the Commission from Ms. Williams, Commissioner White moved to rescind the civil penalties previously assessed in each of the following matters. Commissioner McCain seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

Josh Eatherly – 2022-131

Jason Parnell – 2023-121

11. Set date of Ethics Commission’s next meeting. The Commission discussed setting three meetings for the 2024 year, to occur in February, June, and October. The Commission requested that Assistant Director Lance Frizzell poll the members of the Commission to find an acceptable date of each of these meetings. The dates selected will then be announced as appropriate.

12. Other business. None.

13. Executive Session.