

## **JULY 8, 2025 MEETING MINUTES REGISTRY OF ELECTION FINANCE**

The Registry of Election Finance (“the Registry” or “the Board”) of the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance (“the Bureau”) met at 9:30 AM on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, in the Nashville Room of the WRS Tennessee Tower, 312 Rosa L. Parks Ave., Nashville, TN 37243.

Chairman Tom Lawless presided over the meeting. Also attending the meeting were Board Members Curtis Johnson, Paz Haynes, Henry Fincher, and Paige Burcham-Dennis. Executive Director Bill Young, Assistant Director Lance Frizzell, General Counsel Lauren Topping, Chief of Staff Janet Williams and Director of Audit Jay Moeck were also in attendance. The meeting was open to the public. This meeting was recorded via video and audio recording.

Director Young opened the meeting by noting that a physical quorum of the Registry members was not present, as members Henry Fincher and Paige Burcham-Dennis were participating remotely. Member Haynes moved to allow these members to participate in the meeting by phone in accordance with the Registry’s past practice. Member Johnson seconded the motion, which was approved (5-0).

As a preliminary matter, Director Young requested that the members continue consideration of the reconsideration hearing requested by Damita Dandridge, Case No. 25-01 (on grounds that Judge Dandridge had retained counsel, and counsel had a conflict with the meeting) and consideration of all matters involving Rep. Joe Towns (to allow Rep. Towns to personally appear before the Registry to address these matters). Member Fincher moved to approve the requested continuances. Member Haynes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

### ***Approval of Meeting Minutes***

Member Johnson moved to approve the meeting minutes of the Registry’s previous May 13, 2025, meeting as presented. Member Haynes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

### ***Show Cause Hearing on Audit for Consideration of Civil Penalty Order/Statement Submitted***

DeAngelo Jelks, Cas No. 25-45: Director Young presented a short summary of the audit report and the audit findings. While Mr. Jelks did not participate in the hearing, he had

previously submitted a written statement to the Registry for consideration. Director of Audit Jay Moeck answered members' questions regarding the audit findings. After some discussion, Member Haynes moved to assess a civil penalty of \$500 based upon the findings in the audit. Member Fincher seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

### ***Audit/Reconsideration***

Damita Dandridge, Cas No. 25-01: Continued.

### ***Show Cause Hearing/Sworn Complaint***

Citizen Engagement Forum by Rep. Michele Reneau, Case No. C24-11: Counsel for the Registry presented a short review of the procedural history of this matter and the findings that resulted from the Attorney General's investigation and the Respondent's information submitted under subpoena. Counsel also noted that Respondent's Counsel had submitted a written settlement proposal, acknowledging that Citizen Engagement Forum had failed to properly register and file reports during July and August 2024. Rep. Reneau was present at the meeting and addressed the Registry regarding her complaint. After some discussion, Member Johnson moved to continue further consideration of this matter to the Registry's next scheduled meeting and to require Respondent to submit its registration and required disclosure reports related to the activity addressed in the complaint no later than August 26, 2025. Member Haynes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

### ***Review and Discussion of John DeBerry's Campaign Finance Account***

Counsel for the Registry presented a summary of this matter and how this matter came to be before the Registry for consideration. Counsel advised that former State Representative DeBerry's 2024 Mid-Year campaign financial disclosure filings had revealed an imbalance between Mr. DeBerry's reported balance and his bank balance. Upon Counsel's request, Mr. DeBerry engaged the assistance of Katrina Leach to reconcile the accounts. As a result, Mr. DeBerry's prior disclosure reports were amended to reflect the appropriate activity on each report, and the filing account was closed. Mr. DeBerry and Ms. Leach were on hand to answer questions and provided statements to the Registry. Counsel advised that no further action regarding the filing account was required of Mr. DeBerry and recommended that this matter be considered resolved. Member Fincher moved to take no further action on this matter. Member Haynes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

### ***Show Cause Hearing on Campaign Finance Account for Consideration of Civil Penalty Order/Statement Submitted***

JB Smiley, Case No. 25-49: Counsel for the Registry presented a summary of this matter and the issues for consideration by the Registry. Counsel also provided an update to the Registry on the status of each outstanding obligation and submitted a recommendation on how to address each. After some discussion, Member Lawless moved to continue further consideration of this matter to the Registry's January meeting and to require that Mr. Smiley continue to verify any monthly payments made on the outstanding obligations to the Registry's staff until that time. Member Haynes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

### ***Reconsideration***

Reuben Dockery, Case No. 25-33: Director Young presented a short summary of this matter, as well as the other matters on the Registry's agenda concerning Mr. Dockery. *Ultimately, each matter was considered separately; although these subsequent matters were taken out of order, these minutes will reflect the order of the published agenda.*

Member Haynes moved to reconsider the penalty previously assessed in Case No. 25-33. Member Johnson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0). After a short discussion, Member Haynes moved to assess a civil penalty of \$250. Member Johnson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

David Nipper, Case No. 25-17: Director Young presented a short summary of this matter. Member Haynes moved to reconsider the penalty previously assessed. Member Johnson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0). After a short discussion, Member Haynes moved to assess a civil penalty of \$250. Member Johnson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

Noah Nordstrom, Case No. 25-38: Director Young presented a short summary of this matter, noting that the outstanding report still had not been filed. Director Young recommended a continuance to allow the report to be filed. Member Johnson moved to continue this matter to the Registry's next scheduled meeting. Member Haynes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

### ***Desk Review of Candidate Campaign Finance Reports Subject to Possible Show Cause Notice***

Heather McClendon: Director Young presented a short summary of this matter, noting that the outstanding corrections requested by the Registry's staff had not been submitted. Member Haynes moved to issue a show cause notice in this matter. Member Johnson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

Gabby Salinas: Director Young presented a short summary of this matter, noting that the outstanding corrections requested by the Registry's staff had not been submitted. Member Haynes moved to issue a show cause notice in this matter. Member Johnson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

Joe Towns, Jr.: Continued.

***Desk Review of Candidate Campaign Finance Reports for Consideration of Civil Penalty Order***

Reuben Dockery, Case No. 25-22: As noted above, Director Young presented a short summary of this matter, as well as the other matters on the Registry's agenda concerning Mr. Dockery. As to this matter, Counsel for the Registry confirmed that Mr. Dockery had submitted all required corrections relating to this specific matter. Member Fincher moved to take no further action in this matter. Member Johnson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

Reuben Dockery, Case No. 25-23: As noted above, Director Young presented a short summary of this matter, as well as the other matters on the Registry's agenda concerning Mr. Dockery. As to this matter, Counsel for the Registry noted that Mr. Dockery was unable to satisfy debts relating to two reported obligations and that Mr. Dockery had endeavored to provide documentation to confirm that the debts were not required to be paid based on statements of the creditors. To address the Registry's concerns regarding the dischargeability of the debts, Counsel recommended that the two obligations be left in place on the filing account, but that the filing account be allowed to close despite these unpaid debts. Member Haynes moved to accept Counsel's recommendation. Member Johnson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

***Show Cause Hearing for Consideration of Civil Penalty Order/Statements Submitted***

Case No. 25-05, Jason Emert: Director Young presented a short summary of this matter and its procedural history. After discussion, Member Haynes moved to assess a civil penalty of \$1000. Member Johnson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

Case No. 25-48, Tennessee Physical Therapy PAC: Director Young presented a short summary of this matter. After discussion, Member Haynes moved to assess a civil penalty of \$250. Member Johnson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

***Show Cause Hearings/Consideration of Civil Penalty Order***

Case No. 25-46, Joe Towns, Jr.: Continued.

Case No. 25-34, Stan Hurder: Director Young presented a short summary of this matter. After discussion, Member Haynes moved to assess a civil penalty of \$250. Member Johnson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

Case No. 25-47, London Lamar: Director Young presented a short summary of this matter. Senator Lamar was present at the Registry's meeting and addressed the Registry members. Member Haynes moved to take no action in this matter. Member Johnson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

***Persons Subject to Possible Issuance of Show Cause Notice***

Member Haynes moved to issue a show cause notice in each of the following matters. Member Johnson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

Sabra L. Beauchamp  
Sean Michael Gleason  
Sharon Lynne Gleason  
Aaron A. Wells

Member Lawless moved to issue a show cause notice in the following matter. Member Johnson seconded the motion, which was approved by roll call vote (4-0), with Member Haynes abstaining.

Landmark Homes of Tennessee

Member Fincher moved to continue each of the following matters until the Registry's November meeting. Member Haynes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

Rural West Tennessee Caucus  
Tennessee Black Caucus

***Other Business***

Chairman Lawless advised the members that Director Young had received an item of official correspondence from another State entity, which was marked confidential, relating to a matter previously referred to this entity by the Registry Board. Chairman Lawless expressed his concerns regarding whether this correspondence should be considered a public record. After a short discussion, Chairman Lawless moved to request an official opinion from the Office of the Attorney General, in its capacity as Counsel for the Registry under statute, to clarify the application of the Tennessee Public Records Act to this correspondence and related documents. Member Burcham-Dennis seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

***Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting Set for September 9, 2025.***

***Executive Session.*** None.