

SEPTEMBER 9, 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, September 9, 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, 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 present.

As a preliminary matter, Director Young requested that the members continue consideration of all matters involving Rep. Joe Towns (to allow Rep. Towns to appear before the Registry to address these matters personally). Without objection, these matters were continued. *Although various matters were taken out of order, these minutes will reflect the order of the published agenda.*

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Member Golden moved to approve the meeting minutes of the Registry’s July 8, 2025, meeting as presented. Member Burcham-Dennis seconded the motion, which was approved by roll call vote (4-0).

Audit/Reconsideration

Damita Dandridge, Cas No. 25-01: Attorney Robert Spence appeared on behalf of Judge Dandridge, who was also present. Member Burcham-Dennis moved to reconsider the penalties previously assessed in this matter. Member Golden seconded the motion, which was approved (4-0). Attorney Spence addressed the Registry and requested 60-90 days to allow Judge Dandridge to engage an accounting firm and conduct its own review in an attempt to correct as many errors as possible. Member Johnson moved to continue this matter until the Registry’s January 2026 meeting and to require Judge Dandridge to provide the Registry with the report produced by this audit/review no later than December

7, 2025, to allow the Registry members to review the report in advance of the January 2026 meeting. Member Golden seconded the motion, which was approved (4-0).

Audit for Review and Discussion

Deanna McLaughlin: Ms. McLaughlin was present and addressed the Registry. After a short discussion, Member Golden moved to accept and approve of the audit report completed by Director Moeck. Member Burcham-Dennis seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0). Member Johnson moved to take no action on the audit findings. Member Haynes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

Subject to Possible Issuance of Show Cause Notice for Failure to Provide Audit Records

Member Haynes moved to issue a show cause notice in each of the following matters pertaining to their failure to respond to requests for audit documentation:

Brian Carniello (2023 Annual Mid-Year Supp. Contribution Audit)
Charles (Charlie) Cooper (2024 2nd Quarter Contribution Audit)
Amber (Bennie) Taylor (2024 3rd Quarter Contribution Audit)

Member Golden seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

G.A. Hardaway (2023 Annual Year-End Supp. Contribution Audit): Member Haynes moved to consolidate this matter with Rep. Hardaway's matter under Agenda Item 5. Member Johnson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0). Director Young and Counsel for the Registry summarized these matters for the members. Rep. Hardaway was present and addressed the Registry. Member Burcham-Dennis moved to issue a show-cause notice relating to each matter to be heard at the Registry's January 2026 meeting. Member Golden seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0). Additionally, Member Burcham-Dennis moved to require Rep. Hardaway to provide a written report from his accountant to address the discrepancies noted in these matters no later than December 7, 2025, to allow the Registry members adequate time to review the information in advance of the January 2026 meeting. Additionally, Rep. Hardaway was instructed to complete an Appointment of Political Treasurer form and to provide that document to the Registry's staff no later than the close of business on September 10, 2025. Member Johnson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

Subject to Possible Issuance of Show Cause Notice for Failure to Respond to Desk Review Correction Notice

G. A. Hardaway (2025 Annual Mid-Year Supplemental Campaign Bank Statements): See above.

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 all updates since this matter was last before the Registry. Director Young also noted that Respondent's Counsel was not in attendance at the meeting, but had submitted an amended written settlement proposal, requesting an agreed penalty of \$6,000. After some discussion, Member Burcham-Dennis moved to accept the \$6,000 penalty offer and to take no further action in this matter. Member Haynes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

Reconsideration

Nathan Dressel, Case No. 25-11: Director Young presented a summary of this matter, noting that the outstanding report had been filed. Member Haynes moved to reconsider this matter; Member Johnson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0). Member Haynes moved to reduce the assessed penalty to \$250; Member Johnson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

Noah Nordstrom, Case No. 25-38: Director Young presented a summary of this matter, noting that the outstanding report had now been filed. Member Johnson moved to reconsider this matter; Member Haynes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0). Member Haynes moved to waive the penalty in this matter and take no further action; Member Johnson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

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

Joe Towns, Jr. (3rd Quarter Correction): Continued.

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

Gabby Salinas, Case No. 25-51: Director Young presented a summary of this matter. Rep. Salinas was present and addressed the Registry. Member Golden moved to take no action in this matter; Member Haynes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

Subject to Possible Show Cause Notice/Statements Submitted

Heather McClendon (2025 Annual Mid-Year Supp.): Chairman Lawless moved to consolidate this matter with the show cause hearing for Ms. McClendon on the meeting agenda at Item 11. Member Haynes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0). After a summary of both matters presented by Director Young, Member Burcham-Dennis moved to take no action in these matters. Member Johnson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

Show Cause Hearings for Consideration of Civil Penalty Order/Statements Submitted

Heather McClendon, Case No. 25-50 (4th Quarter Correction): See above.

Aaron A. Wells, Case No. 25-55: After a summary of both matters presented by Director Young, Member Haynes moved to take no action in this matter. Member Johnson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

Show Cause Hearings/Consideration of Civil Penalty Order

Joe Towns, Jr., Case No. 25-46 (3rd Quarter): Continued.

Sabra L. Beauchamp, Case No. 25-52: After a summary of both matters presented by Director Young, Member Haynes moved to assess a civil penalty of \$250 in this matter. Member Johnson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

Member Burcham Dennis moved to assess a civil penalty of \$10,000 in each of the following matters. Member Golden seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

Sean Michael Gleason, Case No. 25-53 (Annual Year-End Supplemental)

Sharon Lynne Gleason, Case No. 25-54 (4th Quarter)

Landmark Homes of Tennessee, Case No. 25-56: Out of an abundance of caution, Member Haynes abstained from discussion and voting in this matter. Attorney Byron Gill

appeared on behalf of Landmark Homes of Tennessee and addressed the Registry board. After further discussion of the facts giving rise to the corporation's need to register with the Registry as a political campaign committee, Member Lawless suggested that this matter be continued to allow the corporation to file the appropriate registration, campaign financial disclosure reports, and to immediately close the filing account based on their intent to have no further activity. Without objection, this matter was deferred to the Registry's November meeting. (Should all requested documentation be submitted by that time, there is no need for a representative of the corporation to appear at that meeting.)

Persons Subject to Possible Issuance of Show Cause Notice

Member Golden moved to take no action in each of the following matters (Morton Rule). Member Burcham-Dennis seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

G.A. Hardaway (2025 Annual Mid-Year Supp. Campaign Bank Statements)
Derek Hawn
Alana Leblanc
Brad Grantham
Curtis Kelly
Ruby Powell-Dennis
Casey Culbreath
Brian Robertson
Grainger County Republican Party
Smoky Mountain Young Democrats
Sean Michael Gleason (Annual Mid-Year Supplemental)
Hamilton County Democratic Party
E. R. Smith
Hardin County Republican Party
Kathy Lennon
Jonathan Yancey
Zachary Houk

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

Amelia Pant
TNSURG PAC
Felicia Corbin-Johnson

Member Golden moved to issue a show-cause notice in each of the following matters. Member Burcham-Dennis seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote

Alexander Armor	Dalia M. Price
Thomas J. Brooks, III	Terry S. Saine
Tim Cyr	Adam Stallings
Duane Dominy	Russell Wayne Steele
Kesa Fowler	Eric Stewart
Lee Frank	Elizabeth Webb
Sharon Lynne Gleason	Larhonda Williams
(Annual Mid-Year Supp.)	Memphis For All PAC
Eddie Johnson	Memphis Restaurant Association PAC
James Jones	(MRA PAC)
Jonathan Joy	Million Myles 2 Dixie PAC
J.J. King	(* Member Haynes abstaining)
John W. Parrish	Nucor Corporation PAC of Tennessee
Cito V. Pellegra	

Tennessee AFL-CIO Labor Committee: AJ Starling appeared on behalf of the organization. Mr. Starling waived the organization's right to additional, written notice of this matter to proceed to resolution at this meeting. Director Young summarized the facts of this matter. Mr. Starling addressed the Registry board. After a short discussion, Member Haynes moved to take no action in this matter. Member Johnson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (5-0).

Other Business

Counsel for the Registry advised the Registry members of the Staff's decision to administratively terminate 2 filing accounts wherein the only cause to keep the filing accounts open related to unpaid obligations in excess of 10 years old.

Counsel for the Registry also advised the Registry members of changes to the Tennessee Open Meetings Act that went into effect on July 1, 2025, and how these changes would impact the Registry's prior practices regarding telephonic participation by members and the public.

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting Set for November 18, 2025.

Executive Session. None.