

Tennessee Registry of Election Finance
March 31, 2026, Meeting Minutes

The Tennessee Registry of Election Finance ("TREF" or "the Registry") of the Tennessee Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance ("BECF" or "the Bureau") met at approximately 9:30 AM on March 31, 2026, in the Nashville Room of the WRS Tennessee Tower, 312 Rosa L. Parks Ave., Nashville, TN 37243.

Chairman William "Paz" Haynes presided over the meeting, joined by Registry Members Henry Fincher, Tom Lawless, Curtis Johnson, and Paige Burcham-Dennis. Also present were Executive Director Bill Young, Assistant Director Lance Frizzell, Chief of Staff Janet Williams, and General Counsel J. Seth May. The meeting was open to the public and recorded via video and audio recording. Director Young opened the meeting and observed a quorum was present.

Member Lawless moved to allow the Registry to take matters out of order if appropriate. The motion was seconded by Member Fincher and passed unanimously.

Member Lawless moved to adopt the minutes from the previous meeting, seconded by Member Golden. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Young first addressed agenda item 10, the request for an advisory opinion submitted by Ben Gastel. This matter was first addressed at the Registry's November 18, 2025, meeting. Ben Gastel was present and given the opportunity to speak. A letter from Senator Adam Lowe was presented to the Registry. Director Young recommended the Registry authorize Registry staff to organize an opportunity for the public to present public comment as to how the subject of the advisory opinion should be interpreted. Member Burcham-Dennis moved to defer issuance of an opinion pending public comment. The motion was seconded by Member Johnson and passed unanimously. Director Young clarified with the Registry that written comment would be allowed.

The Registry reviewed audits for Jeffrey Young Crum, Clarence Pridemore, Jr., and Robert Weiss. Member Lawless moved to accept all audits, seconded by Member Fincher. The motion passed unanimously.

Sworn Complaints

Eddie Farris/Putnam County Sheriff's Department by Erik J. Hammock, Case No. C26-01

Member Lawless opined on the importance of the Registry not being weaponized to support or oppose a particular candidate, instead focusing on enforcement of the campaign finance statutes. Member Fincher moved to take no action in this matter, seconded by Member Lawless. The motion passed unanimously.

Marsha Blackburn by Gary Loe, Case No. C26-02

Member Lawless moved to take no action on this matter for lack of jurisdiction. The motion was seconded by Member Fincher and passed unanimously.

Shelby County Democratic Party PAC by Sanjeev Memula, Case No. C26-03

Member Lawless moved to refer this matter to the Tennessee Attorney General's Office for investigation, seconded by Member Goldin. The motion carried 5-1, with Member Fincher voting no.

Scott Davis by Chrissey L. Stephens, Case No. C26-04, Scott Davis by Erik Wiatr, Case No. C26-05, Scott Davis by Sherri Garrett, C26-06

Member Lawless moved to consider these three complaints together. The motion was seconded by member Fincher and passed unanimously.

Member Fincher moved to refer this matter to the local District Attorney's Office for investigation of potential criminal violations, and to take no action on the other allegations at this time. Member Golden clarified that the referral should include the Registry's request that, should the District Attorney's Office find campaign finance violations, the Registry be notified. Member Golden seconded the motion as revised, and the motion passed unanimously.

Request for Reconsideration/Personally Appearing:

Timothy Green, Jr., Case No. 25-106

Staff recommended the Registry reconsider and rescind the civil penalty entered in this matter. Member Lawless moved to reconsider this matter, which motion was seconded by Member Golden and passed unanimously. Member Fincher moved to rescind the civil penalty entered in this matter, seconded by Member Lawless. The motion passed unanimously.

Requests for Reconsideration:

Cathy Anderson, Case No. 25-92

Member Lawless moved to assess a civil penalty in the amount of \$750 against the Respondent. The motion was not seconded. Member Fincher moved to reconsider this matter, seconded by Member Lawless. The motion passed unanimously. The Registry then reset this matter to the Registry's July 2026 meeting. The Registry requested that staff emphasize to Ms. Anderson that she must bring her filings into compliance by this date.

Britney Chauncey, Case No. 25-96

This matter was continued to the Registry's July 2026 meeting.

Darrick Harris, Case Nos. 25-110, 25-111

Member Golden moved to consolidate and reconsider these matters, seconded by Member Fincher. The motion passed unanimously. Member Lawless moved to reduce the civil penalty to \$500 in each case but withdrew the motion. Member Fincher moved to reduce the civil penalty in these matters to \$250 each, \$500 total. The motion passed unanimously.

Ozell Pace, Jr., Case No. 25-123

Member Lawless moved to reconsider this matter, seconded by Member Golden. The motion passed unanimously. Member Golden moved to reduce the civil penalty entered in this matter to \$250, seconded by Member Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

Joshua Roman, Case No. 25-128

Member Lawless moved to reconsider this matter, seconded by Member Golden. Member Lawless moved to reduce the civil penalty entered in this matter to \$250, seconded by Member Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

Carla Jean Stotts, Case No. 25-136

Member Lawless moved to reconsider this matter, seconded by Member Johnson. The motion passed unanimously. Member Fincher moved to rescind the civil penalty previously entered in this matter, seconded by Member Lawless. The motion passed unanimously.

Jasmine Wilson, Case No. 25-141

Member Fincher moved to reset this matter to the Registry's July 2026 meeting, seconded by Member Lawless. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Joe Brown, Case No. 25-95

Member Lawless moved to assess a civil penalty in the amount of \$250, seconded by Member Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

Nicholas Scott, Case No. 25-132

Member Lawless moved to assess a civil penalty in the amount of \$250, seconded by Member Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

Britney Thornton, Case No. 25-138

Member Lawless moved to assess a civil penalty in the amount of \$250, seconded by Member Golden. The motion passed unanimously.

Show Cause Hearing for Failure to Respond to Desk Review Correction Notice for Consideration of Civil Penalty Order/Statement Submitted:

Jonathan Yancey, Case No. 25-01

Member Golden moved to assess a civil penalty in the amount of \$350, seconded by Member Lawless. The motion passed unanimously.

Persons Subject to Possible Issuance of Show Cause Notice:

Young Gifted and Black PAC, Yusuf Hakeem, East Memphis Democratic Club, Gibson County Tennessee Republican Party, Smoky Mountain Young Democrats, J.B. Smiley, Jr.

Member Golden moved to consolidate and take no action regarding the above-referenced matters, seconded by Member Lawless. The motion passed unanimously.

RAAMPAC, Davidson County Democratic Women Gwen McFarland

The Registry consolidated these matters and addressed both in the same motion. Members Lawless and Golden recused themselves from action regarding RAAMPAC.

Member Johnson moved to take no action in the above-referenced matters, seconded by Member Fincher. The motion passed 4-0 on RAAMPAC, with two abstentions, and 6-0 on the Davidson County Democratic Women.

Zachary Houk, Eddie Johnson, Jonathan Joy, Cito V. Pellegra, Justin Spurlock, Russell Wayne Steele, East Shelby Republican Club, Tennessee Professional Engineers PAC, THMCAREPAC

Member Fincher moved to consolidate and issue show cause notices in the above-referenced matters, seconded by Member Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

London Lamar, G.A. Hardaway, Joe Towns, Jr., Frank Niceley

The Registry continued the above-referenced matters to the Registry's July 2026 meeting.

Kenneth Lee, Case No. 25-119, Rondanial Ransom, Case No. 25-126, Tamara Sawyer, Case No. 25-131, Adam Stallings, Case No. 25-77

Member Fincher moved to consolidate these matters and to rescind the civil penalty previously assessed in each of these matters, seconded by Member Lawless. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Campaign Finance Audits Regarding Bill Beck and Mike Carter:

Staff informed the Registry that both auditees were deceased. Member Lawless moved to close the audits and request nothing further from Registry staff in these matters. The motion was seconded by Member Burcham-Dennis. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of TNCAMP filing system issues:

Director Young reviewed the status of TNCAMP with the Registry and praised Finance and Administration Commissioner Jim Bryson and the State's Information technology departments (STS) for their competence and willingness to assist the Registry in both ensuring TNCAMP worked appropriately and that the TNCAMP system would be upgraded in 2027.

Legislative update and rule review:

Assistant Director Frizzell updated the Registry members as to the progress of the 2026 legislative session and reviewed relevant legislation.

Other business:

Member Lawless played a voicemail he received from an anonymous individual regarding Cade Cothren. Registry staff obtained a copy of the voicemail.

Executive Session

A confidential executive session was held.

There being no further business, the Registry meeting was adjourned.