

STATE OF TENNESSEE



BUREAU OF ETHICS AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE REGISTRY OF ELECTION FINANCE

WRS Tennessee Tower, 16th Floor

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REGISTRY MEMBERS

William J. (Paz) Haynes, III, Chair

Curtis G. Johnson, Secretary

Paige Burcham Dennis

Henry Fincher

David Golden

Tom Lawless

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bill Young

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 July 21, 2026, in the Knoxville Room of the WRS Tennessee Tower, 312 Rosa L. Parks Ave., Nashville, TN 37243.

In attendance were Chairman William "Paz" Haynes, Secretary Curtis Johnson, and members Henry Fincher, Tom Lawless, Paige Burcham Dennis (appearing electronically), and David Golden. Executive Director Bill Young, Assistant Director Lance Frizzell, Chief of Staff Janet Williams, and General Counsel J. Seth May were also present. 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 Member Burcham Dennis to participate electronically, seconded by Member Golden. The motion passed unanimously.

Member Lawless moved to allow Director Young to take matters out of order, seconded by Member Golden. The motion passed unanimously.

T.J. Hardaway appeared and asked to be recognized. Mr. Hardaway introduced himself and thanked the Registry for its work and its fair treatment of his father, G.A. Hardaway.

1. Approval of Minutes from the Registry's May 12, 2026 Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Member Lawless moved to approve the Registry's May 12, 2026 minutes, seconded by Member Golden. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion of Durham Settlement Offer

Member Fincher moved to reject the settlement offer, seconded by Member Lawless. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Sworn Complaints for Possible Issuance of Show Cause Notice:

Case No. C26-11 Melissa Alvarez

Member Fincher moved to dismiss this matter, seconded by Member Lawless. A roll call vote was held. All members voted in favor of the matter, except for Member Lawless. Member Lawless abstained from voting but noted that he abstained only because the complaint appeared to be political in nature, and otherwise he would have voted with the majority.

Case No. C26-12 Aaliyah Hakeem, Case No. C26-14 Aaliyah Hakeem

The matters were consolidated as they raised the same issue. Member Lawless moved to dismiss the matter, seconded by Secretary Johnson. A roll call vote was held. The motion passed unanimously.

Case No. C26-13 Debra Bufalini

Director Young noted that this matter has been referred to the local District Attorney's Office. The Registry did not take any further action.

Case No. C26-15 East Tennessee Republican Club

Director Young recommended referring this matter to the Attorney General's Office for investigation. Member Golden moved to refer the matter to the Attorney General's Office for investigation, seconded by Member Lawless. A roll call vote was held. The motion passed unanimously.

Case No. C26-16 Friends of Fentress

Director Young noted that a very similar matter had already been referred for investigation. Member Fincher moved to refer the matter to both the District Attorney's Office and the Attorney General's Office for investigation, seconded by Member Lawless. The motion passed unanimously.

Case No. C26-17 Paul Miranda

Director Young noted that this matter has already been referred to the District Attorney's Office for investigation. The Registry took no further action.

4. Reconsideration/Personally Appearing

Brian Carniello, Case No. 25-57

Mr. Carniello appeared in person. He brought the records he had not previously submitted, which records were admitted into evidence. Member Fincher moved to reconsider this matter, seconded by Member Johnson. The motion passed unanimously. Member Fincher moved to reduce the civil penalty issued in this matter to \$250, seconded by Member Lawless. A roll call vote was held. The motion passed unanimously. Member Fincher moved to release Registry staff from any further audit requirements in this matter, seconded by Member Lawless. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Reconsiderations

Joe Brown, Case No. 25-95

Chairman Haynes moved to reconsider this matter. The motion failed for lack of a second. No action was taken on reconsideration.

Britney Chauncey, Case No. 25-96

Chief of Staff Janet Williams explained that Ms. Chauncey had corrected her filings with the Shelby County Election Commission, and as a result she was no longer required to submit the report that resulted in her referral to the Registry. Ms. Williams recommended rescinding the penalty against Ms. Chauncey. Member Fincher moved to reconsider this matter, seconded by Member Lawless. The motion passed unanimously. Member Fincher moved to rescind the order previously entered in this matter, seconded by Member Lawless. A roll call vote was held. The motion passed unanimously.

Davin Clemons, Case No. 25-97

Member Golden moved to continue this matter until the Registry's September meeting and asked staff to follow up with the relevant county offices, seconded by Member Lawless. A roll call vote was held. The motion passed unanimously.

Yolanda Cooper-Sutton, Case No. 25-99

Member Golden moved to reconsider this matter, seconded by Member Fincher. The motion passed unanimously. Member Golden moved to take no action in this matter, seconded by Member Fincher.

A roll call vote was held. Member Lawless was opposed, all other members were in favor. The motion carried.

Janeen Gordon, Case No. 25-105

Ms. Gordon appeared in person. Member Golden moved to reconsider the civil penalty issued against Ms. Gordon, seconded by Member Lawless. The motion passed unanimously. Member Fincher moved to reduce the civil penalty to \$250, seconded by Secretary Johnson. Member Lawless requested Member Fincher amend his motion to reduce the civil penalty to \$0 and take no further action. Member Fincher amended his motion accordingly. A roll call vote was held. The motion passed unanimously. The motion that passed was to reduce the civil penalty to \$0 and take no further action in the matter.

Brian Harris, Case No. 25-109

Registry staff requested a continuance of this matter. Member Lawless moved to continue this matter to the Registry's September meeting, seconded by Member Fincher. The motion passed unanimously.

Eric Harris, Case No. 25-112

Member Fincher moved to reconsider this matter, seconded by Secretary Johnson. The motion passed unanimously. Member Fincher moved to reduce the civil penalty issued in this matter to \$250, seconded by Secretary Johnson. A roll call vote was held. The motion passed unanimously. Member Burcham Dennis was not present for this vote.

Danielle Huggins, Case No. 25-115

Member Fincher moved to reconsider this matter, seconded by Secretary Johnson. The motion passed unanimously. Member Fincher moved to take no action in this matter, seconded by Secretary Johnson. A roll call vote was held. Member Lawless voted against the motion, all other members voted in favor. The motion carried.

Stephanie Love, Case No. 25-120

Member Fincher moved to reconsider this matter, seconded by Member Golden. The motion passed unanimously. Member Fincher moved to take no action in this matter but did not receive a second.

Member Lawless moved to reduce the civil penalty to \$250, seconded by Secretary Johnson. A roll call vote was held. The motion passed unanimously.

Britney Thornton, Case No. 25-138

No motion was made. Given no motion, the previous order stands.

Jasmine Wilson, Case No. 25-141

Director Young requested this matter be continued to allow Registry staff an opportunity to consult with local officials. Member Lawless moved to continue this matter until the Registry's September meeting, seconded by Secretary Johnson. The motion passed unanimously. Member Fincher was not present for this vote.

6. Candidate Failure to Respond to Desk Review Correction Notice/For Consideration of Civil Penalty Order:

Joe Towns, Jr., Case No. 25-145 (2024 3rd Quarter Correction), Joe Towns, Jr. (2025 Early Year-End Supplemental), Joe Towns, Jr., Case No. 25-46 (2024 3rd Quarter)

All of Joe Towns, Jr.'s matters were addressed at once, though by different motions. Mr. Towns's request for reconsideration (Case No. 25-46) was held in abeyance. Member Lawless moved to set Case No. 25-145 for show cause hearing, seconded by Member Golden. The motion passed unanimously. Member Lawless moved to set a show cause hearing regarding Mr. Towns's failure to timely submit his 2025 Early Year-End Supplemental report, seconded by Secretary Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Show Cause Hearing on Audit of Campaign Finance Account/For Consideration of Civil Penalty Order:

JB Smiley, Jr., Case No. 25-49

Member Golden moved to take no action in this matter, seconded by Member Lawless. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Show Cause Hearings for Consideration of Civil Penalty Order:

John W. Parrish, Case No. 26-24, Terry Saine, Case No. 26-25

Member Lawless moved to consolidate these matters, seconded by Member Golden. The motion passed unanimously. Member Fincher moved to assess a civil penalty in the amount of \$10,000 against the respondents, seconded by Member Lawless. A roll call vote was held. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Person Subject to Possible Issuance of Show Cause Notice:

Frank Sullivan

Member Johnson moved to take no action in this matter, seconded by Member Lawless. The motion passed unanimously.

Henry County Republican Party

Member Fincher moved to take no action in this matter, seconded by Secretary Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

Michael Woodlee; Ann Hale; London Lamar (2025 Early Year-End Supplemental); Mark Stephen Stapleton; THMCAREPAC; Mother Funders PAC (2026 PAC Fee)

Member Lawless moved to consolidate these matters and set them for a show cause hearing, seconded by Member Fincher. A roll call vote was held. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Haynes recused himself from consideration of THMCAREPAC, though a separate vote was not taken. Ignoring Chairman Haynes's vote, the motion would still carry as to THMCAREPAC.

Reggie William Hall; London Lamar (2026 1st Quarter); Cito V. Pellegra; Robert Brian Richardson; Nicholas Stone; Lonnie Thompson; Hickman County Republican Party; Mother Funders PAC (2026 1st Quarter); SCCR PAC; Tennessee MOMPAC; The Next 50 PAC (2026 1st Quarter); The Next 50 PAC (2026 PAC Fee); Tri-Star Conservative PAC; Women in Numbers PAC; Whitehaven Republican PAC; Akbari PAC; Bluff City PAC; JOBS4TN PAC; Tennessee Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus

Member Lawless moved to consolidate these matters, seconded by Secretary Johnson. Member Lawless moved to schedule a show cause hearing in these matters, seconded by Member Fincher. A roll call vote was held. The motion passed unanimously.

Registry staff note here that, after the meeting, the Tennessee Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus's filing was located. An order will be issued, but it will include a note that staff will advise the Registry to rescind the order at the next meeting.

10. Civil Penalties to be Rescinded

Cathy Anderson, Case No. 25-92; Althea Greene, Case No. 25-107; Handel R. Durham, Jr., Case No. 25-100; Kawanias McNeary, Case No. 25-121; Benji Smith, Case No. 25-134

Member Fincher moved to consolidate these matters and rescind the orders entering civil penalties against the respondents, seconded by Secretary Johnson. A roll call vote was held. Member Lawless voted no; all other members voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

11. Discussion of Wilson County Democratic Party PAC's Resignation of Treasurer

This matter was resolved to the satisfaction of Registry staff prior to the meeting and was not addressed. Member Lawless moved to require Registry Staff to add an entry memorializing this decision to the FAQ section on the Registry's website, seconded by Secretary Johnson.

12. Discussion of Senator Brent Taylor Question

Discussion of this matter was rescheduled to the Registry's November meeting.

13. Update on Cothren Administrative Appeal

The General Counsel updated the Registry as to the status of this matter.

14. Other Business

The Registry's next meeting is September 15, 2026. The Executive Director notified the Registry that the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance's sunset hearing was scheduled for August 19, 2026.