

J. David Weeks
Vice-Chairman

Paula Rawl Calhoon
Neal A. Collins
Val Guest

Lauren G. Trask
Chief Legal Counsel

Maggie Chappell
Assistant Legal Counsel

House Legislative Ethics Committee



P.O. BOX 11867
519 BLATT BUILDING
COLUMBIA, SC 29211
TELEPHONE: (803) 734-3114
FAX: 803-734-8795

Beth E. Bernstein
Secretary

John Richard C. King
Robert Robbins
J. Todd Rutherford
Leonidas E. "Leon" Stavrinakis

Grace Ross
Executive Assistant

HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE OCTOBER 8, 2026 ADVISORY OPINION In the Matter of Lisette Cifaldi COMPLAINT NO. C2025-001

Complainant: Sherri Mikrut
Address: 22 Larium Place
Hilton Head Island, SC 29926
Telephone: 843-384-0555

Respondent: Lisette Cifaldi
Address: P.O. Box 5474
Hilton Head Island, SC 29938
Telephone Number: 803-463-1010

This is in response to the State Ethics Commission's (herein "SEC") Recommendations and Investigative Report (herein "Report") dated July 18, 2025. The House Legislative Ethics Committee (herein "Committee") met on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, and issued the following advisory opinion pursuant to S.C. Code Section 8-13-540.

BACKGROUND

On January 8, 2025, a Complaint was filed against Lisette Cifaldi, a former candidate for SC House District 123. The Complaint alleged several allegations, including concerns over an excess contribution, campaign disclosure documentation, and other reporting matters. The SEC carried out a thorough investigation, and a review of the Respondent's campaign disclosure reports, campaign bank records, and third-party processor records did reveal evidence to support some offenses. Upon their initial review of the SEC's Recommendations and Investigative Report, the Committee decided to request additional investigation into the evidence provided from the Respondent via her counsel. After additional investigation, the Committee finds probable cause is present and charges Respondent with five counts of Ethics Act violations: four (4) counts of violating § 8-13-1308 for failing to report or inaccurately reporting campaign contributions and one (1) count of violating § 8-13-1314 for accepting an excessive campaign contribution.

FINDINGS

Upon review of the SEC's recommendation and relevant evidence, the Committee makes the following findings:

1. S.C. Code § 8-13-1308

S.C. Code Ann. Section 8-13-1308(F) provides that “[c]ertified campaign reports detailing campaign contributions and expenditures must contain: (1) the total of contributions accepted by the candidate or committee; (2) the name and address of each person making a contribution of more than one hundred dollars and the amount and date of receipt of each contribution...”

The investigation into Respondent’s Campaign Disclosure Reports (CDR) indicated that Respondent did not report or inaccurately reported contribution information. Specifically, a contribution made by Thomas Abrams on April 20, 2024 did not appear on the 2024 Q2 CDR. Contributions made by Theresa Bergeron on August 31, 2024 and by Bernice Slutsky on September 27, 2024 did not appear on the 2024 Pre-Election/Q3 CDR. Finally, a contribution made by Meggie Biesenthal on October 29, 2024 appeared on the Q4 2024 CDR, but the amount and Ms. Biesenthal’s occupation were incorrect.

Thus, the Committee finds probable cause is present and charges Respondent with four counts of a violations of § 8-13-1308 for failing to report or inaccurately reporting campaign contributions. However, the Committee notes that Respondent has corrected these errors within the appropriate campaign disclosure reports.

2. S.C. Code § 8-13-1314

S.C. Code Ann. Section 8-13-1314 provides that within an election cycle, a candidate shall not accept a contribution which exceeds one thousand dollars for any office (other than a statewide office).

A review of Respondent’s campaign bank records, campaign disclosure reports, and third-party processor records revealed that Respondent received two contributions of \$1,000.00 each from a contributor within the same election cycle.

Therefore, the Committee finds probable cause is present and charges Respondent with one count of violation of § 8-13-1314 for accepting an excessive contribution. However, the Committee notes that Respondent has addressed this error by refunding \$1,000.00 to the contributor and disclosing this expenditure on the appropriate campaign disclosure report.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, the Committee hereby **CONCURS** with the SEC’s recommendations and finds probable cause is present to charge Respondent with four (4) counts of violating § 8-13-1308 for failing to report or inaccurately reporting campaign contributions and one (1) count of violating § 8-13-1314 for accepting an excessive campaign contribution.

The Committee **ORDERS** that Respondent must provide her campaign bank account records and any other relevant campaign finance records (i.e.: third-party processor records) to Committee counsel for review by November 1, 2026 so that Committee counsel may assist

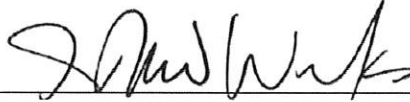
Respondent with closing her campaign filing account. Furthermore, Respondent must file a final campaign disclosure report by the end of this calendar year.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED, this 8th day of October, 2026, by the following members of the House Ethics Committee:

Rep. Wallace H. "Jay" Jordan, Jr., Chairman



Rep. J. David Weeks, Vice-Chairman



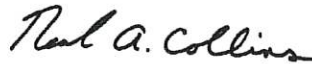
Rep. Beth E. Bernstein, Secretary



Rep. Paula Rawl Calhoun



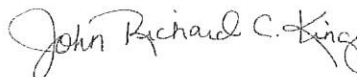
Rep. Neal A. Collins



Rep. Thomas Duval "Val" Guest, Jr.



Rep. John Richard C. King



Rep. Robby Robbins



Rep. J. Todd Rutherford

Rep. Leonidas E. "Leon" Stavrinakis

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
RECEIVED JUNE 21 2024

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
RECEIVED JUNE 21 2024

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

COMPLAINT FORM

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:

CASE NUMBER

c 2025-001

COMPLAINANT: Sherrie (Sharon) Milkut
ADDRESS: 22 Larium Place HHI SC 29926
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 843 384 0555
TITLE: Resident of Hilton Head Island

RESPONDENT: Lisette Cifaldi
ADDRESS: PO Box 5474 HHI SC 29938
TELEPHONE NUMBER: Not Listed
TITLE: Candidate for SC House 123

Set forth in detail specific facts upon which you based your complaint against above-named respondent (only detailed, clear factual allegations will be considered. If additional space is needed, attach supplemental sheets).

I was reviewing Cifaldi's information online, when I noticed several items on her contribution page. Margie Vanderbilt donated \$1200.00, which is over the allowed amount of \$1,000 for a state candidate for House seat 123. Also, there are many on her page of donations that list of employment is unknown, N/A, or nothing listed and unemployed. I do find it interesting that there are so many Unemployed people on Hilton Head Island can donate \$1,000 to a political campaign. Her sister Robin who is a nurse having both listed as RN and unemployed. I am really concerned about how the Cifaldi Campaign team handles their donations, and the truthfulness of her donations. I have been contributing to candidates since the early 1980's in both Pennsylvania and Here in South Carolina, I have had to always list my occupation. I wonder what Lisette Cifaldi is hiding

If there is a finding of probable cause, the following documents become public record: the complaint, the response (if any) by respondent, and the notice of hearing. If a hearing is to be held, the final order and all exhibits become public record. If no hearing is held following a finding of probable cause, the final disposition of the matter becomes public record.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF South Carolina

Personally appeared before me Sherrie Milkut who, first being duly sworn, says that he/she has read and knows the contents of the above complaint and that the allegations contained therein, are true and correct to the best of his/her own knowledge, except for those matters therein based upon information and belief, and as to those he/she believes them to be true.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
11th day of October, 2024

Dodi Heywood
Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission expires July 17, 2027

Complainant Signature

SEC-7 (Revised 3/2022)

REPLY TO: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210 (803)253-4192

ELECTRONIC COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Dodi Heywood
Notary Public, State of South Carolina
My Commission Expires July 17, 2027

C102form

Dodi Heywood

From: Lisette Cifaldi
To: Plunkett, Timothy
Subject: [External] Written Response to an Ethics Complaint
Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2025 9:34:54 AM
Attachments: image001.png

Dear Tim,

I wanted to provide a written response to the ethics complaint made against me by Sherrie Mikrut.

I would like to begin by telling you that Sherrie Mikrut, the complainant, engaged in non-stop negative and aggressive trolling of me and my campaign on all social media platforms to the point where I was forced to block her. She spread false information about me and my family and was a toxic influence on the campaign process. Many of her comments are still visible on campaign posts although a good majority had to be deleted for inappropriate content.

In response to her complaints:

1. Complaint number one said I had two campaign contributions from the same person but one was listed as retired and one was listed as a nurse.
 - a. The contributions were from two separate people with the same name. The \$20 contribution from Robin Cifaldi who listed her employment as retired is my mother. The \$40 contribution from Robin Cifaldi who listed her occupation as a nurse is my sister. My mother is in fact retired and my sister is an ICU nurse at Hilton Head Hospital.
2. Complaint number two said many of my contributors listed their occupation as non-employed which was suspicious.
 - a. The majority of my district includes Hilton Head and Daufuskie Islands which both have a large demographic of retired individuals. Many of my contributors who are retired listed their employment status as unemployed and not retired. I assume the variation in responses as retired vs. unemployed had to do with differences in how they interpreted the information request. My assumption is that most all of the contributors who responded as unemployed are in fact retired.

Feel free to contact me with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Lisette Cifaldi, LISW-CP

lisetteforschouse.com
info@lisetteforschouse.com
P.O. Box 5474
Hilton Head, SC 29938

VOTE **LISETTE**
CIFALDI HOUSE SEAT 123

State Ethics Commission—Recommendation to House Legislative Ethics Committee
In the Matter of Lisette Cifaldi

COMPLAINANT INFORMATION

Name	Sherri (Sharon) Mikrut
Address	22 Larium Place, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926
Telephone Number	843.384.0555
Fax Number	None
Email	Unknown

RESPONDENT INFORMATION

Name	Lisette Cifaldi
Address	P.O. Box 5474, Hilton Head Island, SC 29938
Telephone Number	803.463.1010
Fax Number	None
Email	info@lisetteforschouse.com
Attorney Information	N/A
Confidentiality Waived	No

COMPLAINT INFORMATION

Complaint No.	C2025-001
Complaint Received	January 8, 2025
Facts Sufficient Determination	January 8, 2025
Facts Sufficient Determination Made By	Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The State Ethics Commission recommends that the House Ethics Committee find probable cause is present and charge Respondent with any of the following:

Four (4) counts of violating Section 8-13-1308 for failing to report or inaccurately reporting campaign contributions.

One (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1314 for accepting an excessive campaign contribution.

TOTAL: Five (5) counts