

2026 Annual Accountability Report

State Ethics Commission

Agency Code: R520

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AGENCY NAME:	State Ethics Commission		
AGENCY CODE:	R520	SECTION:	110

AGENCY'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the State Ethics Commission (Commission) was able to achieve its mandate of enforcing the Ethics Reform Act (the Act) while improving productivity and transparency.

The Commission has four departments charged with enforcing the Act: The disclosures department assists with required filings; the non-compliance department levies fines and penalties when required filers fail to file required filings before the statutorily established deadlines; the investigations department investigates complaints; and the legal department represents the Commission during hearings and provides advisory opinions when appropriate.

During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the Commission fielded 6,362 phone calls. This is consistent with the call volume received during the previous fiscal year. A low call volume can be attributed to several things: users becoming familiar with the new filing system, increased training efforts, our vendor's assistance with technical issues, and our online training videos. Commission staff believes that with fewer calls, staff will be able to devote more time to each caller, which will result in fewer instances of noncompliance and subsequent enforcement measures.

During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, Commission staff worked to increase complaint transparency by placing publicly available documents related to cases pending a hearing on the Commission's website. Commission staff also placed publicly available documents related to complaints resolved since 2020 on the Commission's website. Documents related to complaints resolved before 2020 are available at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. In an additional effort to increase transparency, Commission staff begin implementing a pilot program for livestreaming Commission hearings.

The Commission trained 3,626 public officials, public members, and public employees during the fiscal year – a 47% increase over the previous fiscal year.

The non-compliance department, while short-staffed due to employee separations, opened 1,440 noncompliance cases. The department collected $419,772.78 in late filing penalties and fines. Pursuant to Sections 8-13-140 and 8-13-150 of the Act, these fines will be used as carry-forward funds, allowing the Commission to fund itself in ways that do not require additional funds from the General Assembly.

The Commission's investigative department presented ninety-six cases during the fiscal year. The average case was 233 days old when it was presented for probable cause.

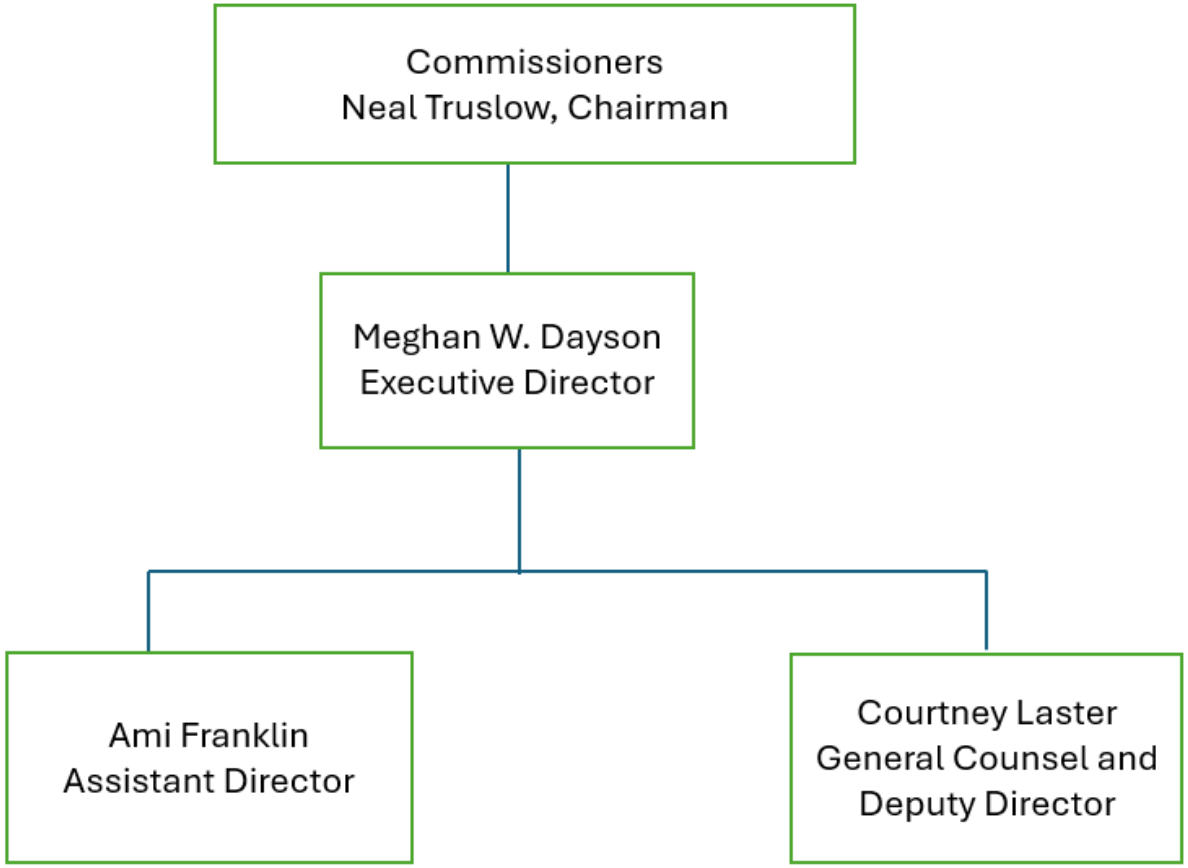
The legal department resolved sixty-two cases during the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The department aims to resolve most cases within 180 days of a finding of probable cause – 52% of the cases resolved during the fiscal year met this goal.

The Commission's current office space lease ends in November of 2026. Commission staff began evaluating the prudence of relocating or renewing the current lease. This evaluation will continue until a recommendation is presented to the Commission's board.

Lastly, the Commission did not experience a technological or security breach during the fiscal year.

AGENCY NAME:	State Ethics Commission		
AGENCY CODE:	R520	SECTION:	110

AGENCY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



2026

Reorganization and Compliance

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

R520 - STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Primary Contact

First Name	Last Name	Role/Title	Email Address	Phone
Meghan	Dayson	Executive Director	mwalker@ethics.sc.gov	803-253-4192

Secondary Contact

First Name	Last Name	Role/Title	Email Address	Phone
Ami	Franklin	Assistant Director	ami@ethics.sc.gov	803-253-4192

Agency Mission	Adopted in:	2021

The State Ethics Commission will enforce South Carolina's ethics laws in a fair and impartial manner that provides accountability to public officials, public members and public employees as well as transparency to the people of South Carolina – who we all serve.

Agency Vision	Adopted in:	2018

The State Ethics Commission seeks to enhance public trust in the integrity of state and local government. As such, the Commission must fairly and impartially enforce the Ethics Reform Act of 1991. In addition to enforcement, the Commission seeks to reduce the number of individuals who run afoul of the Ethics Reform Act by offering guidance to persons subject to the Ethics Act. South Carolinians have a right to be fully informed as to the financial interests of the persons representing them and the Commission is committed to maintaining open, accessible financial records for all mandated filers.

Recommendations for reorganization requiring legislative change:

None

Agency intentions for other major reorganization to divisions, departments, or programs to allow the agency to operate more effectively and efficiently in the succeeding fiscal year:

1) The Non-Compliance Department will be separated into two separate divisions; 2: The Disclosures Department will be separated into two separate divisions

Significant events related to the agency that occurred in FY2026				
Description of Event	**Start**	**End**	**Agency Measures Impacted**	**Other Impacts**
Continued working with our filing portal vendor, Tyler Technologies, to update the lobbyist and lobbyist's principal portion of the electronic filing portal.	July	June	Sum of individuals trained.	Lobbyists and their principals will have a user experience more similar to other required electronic filers.
Continued working with our filing portal vendor, Tyler Technologies, to create applications to streamline the enforcement of late-filing and non-filing penalties.	July	June	Average number of days between complaint assignment and presentation for probable cause.	This update will lead to more efficient and effective late filing enforcement resulting in more efficient complaint

Is the agency in compliance with S.C. Code Ann. § 2-1-220, which requires submission of certain reports to the Legislative Services Agency for publication online and the State Library? (See also S.C. Code Ann. § 60-2-20).	Yes
Reason agency is out of compliance: (if applicable)	
Is the agency in compliance with various requirements to transfer its records, including electronic ones, to the Department of Archives and History? See the Public Records Act (S.C. Code Ann. § 30-1-10 through 30-1-180) and the South Carolina Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (S.C. Code Ann. § 26-6-10 through 26-10-210).	Yes
Does the law allow the agency to promulgate regulations?	Yes

Law number(s) which gives the agency the authority to promulgate regulations:	**8-13-320(12)**
Has the agency promulgated any regulations?	Yes
Is the agency in compliance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-120 (J), which requires an agency to conduct a formal review of its regulations every five years?	Yes
(End of Reorganization and Compliance Section)	

FY2026

Strategic Plan Results

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

R520 - STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Goal 1 Increase efficiency of investigations and hearings.

Goal 2 Provide training to underserved public officials, public members, and public employees.

Goal 3 Provide a safe and secure environment for Commissioners, staff and the public.

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
1.1	**Average length of time between investigation assignment and presentation.**									**State Objective:**	**Government and Citizens**			
1.1.1	Average number of days between complaint assignment and presentation for probable cause.	338	180	233	Count	Equal to or less than	State Fiscal Year	Sum of days between assignment and presentation.	Calendar	Commission complaint logs.	Efficient, transparent resolution of complaints.	Complainants and respondents.	0100.000000.000	
1.2	**Average length of time between a finding of probable cause and resolution of complaint.**									**State Objective:**	**Government and Citizens**			
1.2.1	Average number of days between probable cause finding and resolution of the complaint.	250	180	202	Count	Equal to or less than	State Fiscal Year	Sum of violent incidents.	Reported incidents of violence	Incident Reports	Security.	Commission staff and guests.	0100.000000.000	
2.1	**Number of individuals trained.**									**State Objective:**	**Education, Training, and Human Development**			
2.1.1	Sum of individuals trained.	2,464	1,000	3,626	Count	Equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year	Sum of days between a finding of probable cause and resolution of the complaint.	Calendar	Commission complaint logs.	Efficient, transparent resolution of complaints.	Complainants and respondents.	0100.000000.000	
2.2	**Provide Ethics Brochures to County Voter/Registration Offices.**									**State Objective:**	**Education, Training, and Human Development**			
2.2.1	Sum of counties served.	46	46	46	Count	Maintain range	State Fiscal Year	Sum of individuals trained.	Internal Accountability Report provided to Commissioners during full Commission meetings.	Internal Accountability Report	Education.	Public officials, public members, and public employees.	0100.000000.000	
2.3	**Number of brochures mailed.**									**State Objective:**	**Education, Training, and Human Development**			
2.3.1	Sum of brochures mailed.	700	700	700	Count	Maintain range	State Fiscal Year	Sum of County Voter/Registration Offices serviced.	Brochure Log	Internal Brochure Log	Education.	Candidates for public office.	0100.000000.000	
3.1	**Number of breaches.**									**State Objective:**	**Maintaining Safety, Integrity and Security**			
3.1.1	Sum of breaches.	0	0	0	Count	Maintain range	State Fiscal Year	Sum of County Voter/Registration Offices serviced.	Brochure Log	Internal Brochure Log	Education.	Candidates for public office.	0100.000000.000	
3.2	**Number of instances of violence.**									**State Objective:**	**Maintaining Safety, Integrity and Security**			

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Actual	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
3.2.1	Sum of violent incidents.	0	0	0	Count	Maintain range	State Fiscal Year	Sum of breaches.	Reports of breaches	Incident Reports	Security.	Users of the electronic filing portal(s).	0100.000000.000	

FY2027

Strategic Plan Development

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

R520 - STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Goal 1 Increase efficiency of investigations and hearings.

Goal 2 Provide training to underserved public officials, public members, and public employees.

Goal 3 Provide a safe and secure environment for Commissioners, staff and the public.

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
1.1	**Average length of time between investigation assignment and presentation.**								**State Objective:**	**Government and Citizens**			
1.1.1	Average number of days between complaint assignment and presentation for probable cause.	233	180	Count	Equal to or less than	State Fiscal Year	Average of days between case assignment and probable cause presentation.	Calendar	Commission complaint logs.	Efficient, transparent resolution of complaints.	Complainants and respondents.	0100.000000.000	
1.2	**Average length of time between a finding of probable cause and resolution of complaint.**								**State Objective:**	**Government and Citizens**			
1.2.1	Average number of days between probable cause finding and resolution of the complaint.	202	180	Count	Equal to or less than	State Fiscal Year	Average of days between a probable cause finding and resolution.	Calendar	Commission complaint logs.	Efficient, transparent resolution of complaints.	Complainants and respondents.	0100.000000.000	
2.1	**Number of individuals trained.**								**State Objective:**	**Education, Training, and Human Development**			
2.1.1	Sum of individuals trained.	3,626	1,000	Count	Maintain range	State Fiscal Year	Sum of individuals trained.	Internal compliance report.	Internal compliance reports.	Education.	Public officials, public members, and public employees.	0100.000000.000	
2.2	**Provide Ethics Brochures to County Voter/Registration Offices.**								**State Objective:**	**Education, Training, and Human Development**			
2.2.1	Sum of counties served.	46	46	Count	Maintain range	State Fiscal Year	Sum of counties served.	Internal brochure log.	Internal brochure log.	Education.	Public officials, public members, and public employees.	0100.000000.000	
2.3	**Number of brochures mailed.**								**State Objective:**	**Education, Training, and Human Development**			
2.3.1	Sum of brochures mailed.	700	700	Count	Maintain range	State Fiscal Year	Sum of brochures mailed.	Internal brochure log.	Internal brochure log.	Education.	Public officials, public members, and public employees.	0100.000000.000	
3.1	**Number of breaches.**								**State Objective:**	**Maintaining Safety, Integrity and Security**			

Perf. Measure Number	Description	Base	Target	Value Type	Desired Outcome	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Data Location	Stakeholder Need Satisfied	Primary Stakeholder	State Funded Program Number Responsible	Notes
3.1.1	Sum of breaches.	460	0	Count	Equal to or less than	State Fiscal Year	Sum of breaches.	Reports of breaches.	Incident reports.	Security.	Commission staff and guests.	0100.000000.000	
3.2	**Number of instances of violence.**								**State Objective:**	**Maintaining Safety, Integrity and Security**			
3.2.1	Sum of violent incidents.	0	0	Count	Equal to or less than	State Fiscal Year	Sum of violent incidents.	Reported incidents of violence.	Incident reports.	Security.	Commission staff and guests.	0100.000000.000	

2026 Budget Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

R520 - STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

State Funded Program No.	State Funded Program Title	Description of State Funded Program	(Actual) General	(Actual) Other	(Actual) Federal	(Actual) Total	(Projected) General	(Projected) Other	(Projected) Federal	(Projected) Total
0100.000000.000	Administration	Funding source for carrying out the investigation and enforcement of the Commission's statutory mandate to include compliance with financial disclosure, lobbyists/lobbyists' principal disclosure, campaign disclosure and rules of conduct. The mandate also includes regulating lobbying; issuing advisory opinions interpreting the Ethics Reform Act and finally educating covered individuals, entities and the public on the requirements of the Ethics Reform Act.	$ 1,668,498.37	$ 473,048.00	$ -	$ 2,141,546.37	$ 1,692,000.00	$ 1,500,000.00	$ -	$ 3,192,000.00
9500.050000.000	State Employer Contributions	Retirement and other benefits.	$ 589,647.00	$ 44,460.00	$ -	$ 634,107.00	$ 607,809.00	$ 141,000.00		$ 749,747.00

2026

Legal Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

R520 - STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
2-17-30	State	Statute	Lobbyist's reporting of lobbying activities.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
2-17-35	State	Statute	Lobbyist's principal's reporting of lobbying expenditures	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
2-17-40	State	Statute	Report of lobbying activities of state agency or department.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
2-17-45	State	Statute	Reports required of certain entities which rank or rate actions, votes or failures to act or vote of certain public officials.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
2-17-50	State	Statute	State Ethics Commission to enforce filing requirements of chapter and to assess penalties for failure to file; filing of required reports and payment of fine constitutes compliance; payment of fine without filing not to excuse or exempt person from filing requirements.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
2-17-60	State	Statute	Duties of State Ethics Commission.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
2-17-65	State	Statute	Review of reports for compliance; audits of lobbyists and principals; procedure upon failure to file required information after notice.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
2-17-70	State	Statute	Repealed July 1, 1993.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
2-17-80	State	Statute	Acts prohibited of lobbyists; acts prohibited of public officials and employees; exceptions.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
2-17-90	State	Statute	Acts prohibited of lobbyists' principals; acts prohibited of public officials and employees; exceptions; disclosure requirements.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
2-17-5	State	Statute	Transfer of Duties and powers from Secretary of State to State Ethics Commission.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
2-17-10	State	Statute	Definitions	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
2-17-15	State	Statute	Persons prohibited from serving as lobbyist; application of section.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
2-17-17	State	Statute	Bodies which contract with outside lobbyists must mail copies of lobbyists' disclosure statements and reports to home addresses of members; use of funds.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
2-17-20	State	Statute	Registration of lobbyists; notice of termination of lobbying activities; supplemental registration statements; list of lobbyists; recording keeping requirements; reregistration requirements.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
2-17-25	State	Statute	Registration of Lobbyist's principal; notice of termination of lobbying authority; supplemental registration statements; list of lobbyist's principal; recording keeping requirements; reregistration requirements.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
2-17-100	State	Statute	Public officials and employees not to receive compensation for speaking before audiences; exception and rules for payment of expenses.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
2-17-110	State	Statute	Additional acts prohibited of lobbyists and lobbyists' principals, public officials, and public employees.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
2-17-120	State	Statute	Suspension of lobbyist upon indictment for violation of provision of this chapter.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
2-17-130	State	Statute	Penalties for violation of provisions of this chapter.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
2-17-140	State	Statute	Groundless allegations of violations to be stricken from public record; penalties for willful filing of groundless complaint.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
2-17-150	State	Statute	Statute of limitations for prosecuting violation of provision of this chapter.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-100	State	Regulation	State Ethics Commission	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-1001	State	Regulation	Repeal of Existing Regulations and Adoption of Articles 1 through 10, inclusive	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-201	State	Regulation	Purpose and Scope	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-202	State	Regulation	Severability	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-203	State	Regulation	Definitions	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-204	State	Regulation	Official Forms and Documents	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-205	State	Regulation	Date of Filing with the Commission Defined	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
52-206	State	Regulation	Method of Service	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-207	State	Regulation	Effect of Signature	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-208	State	Regulation	Computation of Time	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-209	State	Regulation	Motions and Other Papers	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-210	State	Regulation	Notice of Representation	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-211	State	Regulation	Subpoenas	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-212	State	Regulation	Amendments to Forms	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-301	State	Regulation	Advisory Opinions, Generally	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
52-302	State	Regulation	Informal Advisory Opinions	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-303	State	Regulation	Formal Advisory Opinions	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-401	State	Regulation	General	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-402	State	Regulation	Lobbyist's and Lobbyist's Principal registration, termination, supplemen-tal registration, record keeping, and reregistration requirements	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-403	State	Regulation	Lobbyists and Lobbyist's Principal reporting requirements	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-404	State	Regulation	Registration of Rating or Ranking Entities	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-405	State	Regulation	Administrative enforcement of registration and reporting of lobbyists, lobbyist's principals and rating entities activities and expenditures	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
52-501	State	Regulation	General	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-502	State	Regulation	Responsibility of Persons accepting declarations of candidacy or petitions for nomination	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-503	State	Regulation	Committees receiving or spending funds to influence elections must register	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-504	State	Regulation	Candidate's and Committee's Campaign Reports	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-505	State	Regulation	Committees registered with the Federal Election Commission	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-506	State	Regulation	Administrative Enforcement of Candidate's and Committee's registration and reporting requirements	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-601	State	Regulation	General	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-602	State	Regulation	Persons Required to File Statements of Economic Interests and Agencies Required to file Contract Disclosure Forms	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
52-603	State	Regulation	Confidential Statements of Economic Interests	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-604	State	Regulation	Reporting by persons not required to file a Statement of Economic Interest	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-605	State	Regulation	Approval for Out-of-State Expenses	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-606	State	Regulation	Consultant’s Disclosure Forms	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-607	State	Regulation	Candidates and Incumbents Statement’s of Economic Interests	Report our agency must/may provide		no Change
52-608	State	Regulation	Administrative Enforcement	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-701	State	Regulation	General	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
52-702	State	Regulation	Initiating a Complaint	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-703	State	Regulation	Parties to the proceeding	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-704	State	Regulation	Complaint Procedures	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-705	State	Regulation	Investigation of Complaints	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-706	State	Regulation	Amendment and Withdrawal of Complaint	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-707	State	Regulation	Hearing notice	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-708	State	Regulation	Request for Remediation	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
52-709	State	Regulation	Respondent's Answer to Complaint	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-710	State	Regulation	Discovery	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-711	State	Regulation	Admission of Expert's Reports and other forms of written evidence	Board, commission, or committee on which someone from our agency must/may serve		No Change
52-712	State	Regulation	Presentation of Evidence	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-713	State	Regulation	Conduct of Hearings	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-714	State	Regulation	Burden of Proof	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-715	State	Regulation	Continuance, Postponement and Adjournment	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
52-716	State	Regulation	Final Disposition and Order	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-717	State	Regulation	Record of Hearing and Transcripts	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-718	State	Regulation	Confidentiality of Proceedings	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-801	State	Regulation	Filing an Appeal	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-802	State	Regulation	Notice of Appellate Hearing	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-803	State	Regulation	Briefs	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-804	State	Regulation	Oral Argument	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
52-805	State	Regulation	Composition of the Panel for Full Commission Review	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-806	State	Regulation	Standard of Review	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-807	State	Regulation	Additional Evidence	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-901	State	Regulation	General	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-902	State	Regulation	Requirements of Trust Instrument	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
52-903	State	Regulation	Effect	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-100	State	Statute	Definitions.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1110	State	Statute	Persons required to file statement of economic interests	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
8-13-1120	State	Statute	Contents of statement of economic interests	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1125	State	Statute	Exception to reporting requirement for events to which entire legislative body invited	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1127	State	Statute	Legislative invitations committees to keep records of invitations ac-cepted; public inspection	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1130	State	Statute	Report on names of, and purchases by, lobbyists	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1140	State	Statute	Filing of updated statement	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1150	State	Statute	Filing of statement by certain consultants	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1160	State	Statute	Forwarding of copies of statement to State Ethics Commission and filing person’s county of residence	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
8-13-1170	State	Statute	Technical violations of disclosure requirements; extensions of time for filing statements	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1180	State	Statute	Soliciting of contributions by elective official or agent from employees; favoritism by public official or employee towards employees making contributions	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-120	State	Statute	Fee for educational nd training programs	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-130	State	Statute	Levying enforcement or administrative fee on persons in violation; use of fee.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1300	State	Statute	Definitions	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1301	State	Statute	Joint candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor to be considered a single candidate	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1302	State	Statute	Maintenance of records of contributions, contributors, and expenditures	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
8-13-1304	State	Statute	Committees receiving and spending funds to influence elections required to file statement of organization	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1306	State	Statute	Contents of statement of organization	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1308	State	Statute	Filing of certified campaign reports by candidates and committees	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1309	State	Statute	Filing of certified campaign reports by ballot measure committee	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1310	State	Statute	Recipients of certified campaign reports and copies thereof; State Ethics Commission review	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1312	State	Statute	Campaign bank accounts	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1314	State	Statute	Campaign contribution limits and restrictions	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
8-13-1316	State	Statute	Restrictions on campaign contributions received from political parties	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1318	State	Statute	Acceptance of contributions to retire campaign debt; limits; reporting requirements	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1320	State	Statute	Contributions within specified period after primary, special, or general election attributed to that primary or election	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1322	State	Statute	Dollar limits on contributions to committees	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1324	State	Statute	Anonymous campaign contributions	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1326	State	Statute	Loans to candidates considered contributions; limitations; exceptions	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1328	State	Statute	Limits on repayment of loans from candidate or family members to campaign	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
8-13-1330	State	Statute	Contributions by spouses or parent and child	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1331	State	Statute	Affiliated Committees	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1332	State	Statute	Unlawful contributions and expenditures	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1333	State	Statute	Not-for-profit corporations solicitation guidelines	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1334	State	Statute	Certain solicitation of contributions by corporations and organizations from employees not unlawful	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1336	State	Statute	Accepting or soliciting contributions on State Capitol grounds or in of-ficial residence prohibited; exception for contributions by mail	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1338	State	Statute	Persons prohibited from soliciting contributions	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
8-13-1340	State	Statute	Restrictions on contributions by one candidate to another	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1342	State	Statute	Restrictions on contributions by contractor to candidate who participated in awarding of contract	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1344	State	Statute	Contributions by public utilities; seeking endorsement in return for con-tribution; discrimination by employers based on contributions; reimburse-ment for contributions	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1346	State	Statute	Use of public funds, property, or time to influence election prohibited; exceptions	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1348	State	Statute	Use of campaign funds for personal expenses; certain expenditures to be in writing; expenditures not to exceed fair market value; petty cash funds	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1350	State	Statute	Prohibition of use of funds for campaign for one office to further candi-dacy of same person for different office	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1352	State	Statute	Exception to prohibition of use of funds for campaign for one office to further candidacy of same person for different office	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
8-13-1354	State	Statute	Identification of person independently paying for election-related com-munication; exemptions	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1356	State	Statute	Filing of statement of economic interests by candidates for public office	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1358	State	Statute	Format of certified campaign reports	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1360	State	Statute	Contribution and expenditure reporting form; contents	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1362	State	Statute	Filing of statement of inactivity by candidate or committee having no contributions or expenditures to report	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1364	State	Statute	Sending of notice of obligation to report and forms	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1366	State	Statute	Public availability of certified campaign reports	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
8-13-1368	State	Statute	Termination of campaign filing requirements; dissolution of committees; final report	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1370	State	Statute	Use of unexpended contributions by candidate after election; distribution of unexpended funds of committee	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1371	State	Statute	Use of funds by ballot measure committee	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1372	State	Statute	Technical violations of rules on campaign reports	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1373	State	Statute	Budget and Control Board (now called the Department of Administration) must defend action	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1374	State	Statute	Richland County designated as site of failure to file	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-140	State	Statute	Retention of funds derived from additional assessments associated with late filing fees.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
8-13-150	State	Statute	Carrying forward unexpended lobbyists and lobbyist's principals registration fees.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1510	State	Statute	Penalty for late filing of or failure to file report or statement required by this chapter	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-1520	State	Statute	Violation of chapter constitutes misdemeanor; violation not necessarily ethical infraction	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-310	State	Statute	State Ethics Commission reconstituted; members; terms of office; officers; quorum requirements; meetings; per diem; mileage, and subsistence for members.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-320	State	Statute	Duties and powers of State Ethics Commission.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-325	State	Statute	Use of registration fines and fees.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
8-13-330	State	Statute	Executive director of commission; restrictions on political activities of members, employees and staff of commission.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-340	State	Statute	Annual report of commission.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-350	State	Statute	Ethics brochure to be provided to public officials, members, and employees.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-360	State	Statute	Statements and reports filed with commission open for public inspection.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-365	State	Statute	Electronic Filing deadline.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-700	State	Statute	Use of official position or office for financial gain; disclosure of potential conflict of interest	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-705	State	Statute	Offering, giving, soliciting, or receiving anything of value to influence action of public employee, member or official, or to influence testimony of witness; exceptions; penalty for violation	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
8-13-710	State	Statute	Reporting of particular gifts received by public employee, official, or member on statement of economic interests.	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-715	State	Statute	Speaking engagements of public officials, members or employees; only expense reimbursement permitted; authorization for	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-720	State	Statute	Offering, soliciting, or receiving money for advice or assistance of public official, member or employee	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-725	State	Statute	Use or disclosure of confidential information by public official, member, or employee for financial gain	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-730	State	Statute	Membership on or employment by regulatory agency of person associated with regulated business	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-735	State	Statute	Participation in decision affecting personal economic interests by one employed by and serving on governing body of governmental entity	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-740	State	Statute	Representation of another by a public official, member, or employee before a governmental entity	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
8-13-745	State	Statute	Paid representation of clients and contracting by member of General As-sembly or associate in particular situations	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-750	State	Statute	Employment, promotion, advancement, or discipline of family member of public official, member, or employee	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-755	State	Statute	Restrictions on former public official, member, or employee serving as lobbyist or accepting employment in field of former service	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-760	State	Statute	Employment by government contractor of former public official, member, or employee who was engaged in procurement	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-765	State	Statute	Use of government personnel or facilities for campaign purposes; govern-ment personnel permitted to work on campaigns on own time	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-770	State	Statute	Members of General Assembly prohibited from serving on state boards and commissions; exceptions	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

Law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Description	Purpose the law serves:	Notes:	Changes made during FY2026
8-13-775	State	Statute	Public official, member, or employee with official function related to contracts not permitted to have economic interest in contracts	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-780	State	Statute	Remedies for breaches of ethical standards by public officials, members, or employees	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-785	State	Statute	Communication by elected official with state board or commission on behalf of constituent	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-790	State	Statute	Recovery of amounts received by official or employee in breach of ethical standards; recovery of kickbacks	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change
8-13-795	State	Statute	Receipt of award, grant, or scholarship by public official or family	Report our agency must/may provide		No Change

2026

Services Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

R520 - STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Description of Service	Description of Direct Customer	Customer Name	Others Impacted by Service	Division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Description of division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Primary negative impact if service not provided.	Changes made to services during FY2026	Summary of changes to services
Public Disclosure section of website that contains reports filed by lobbyists, lobbyist's principals, public, elected, and appointed officials under our jurisdiction. Ability to file complaints for violations of the Ethics Reform Act.	All South Carolinians, news media, and any citizen outside of South Carolina seeking information about public officials, employees, lobbyists, or elected officials' campaign finance and economic interests	Any person under the Commission's jurisdiction.	All South Carolinians.	Administration	Created by Section 8-13-310 to establish and enforce certain rules of ethical conduct for public officials and employees, to establish rules for election campaign finance practices, and to provide for disclosure of economic interests and to administer the lobbyist portion of the Ethics Reform Act of 1991.	Lack of training could result in increased Ethics Act violations leading to increased enforcement efforts and costs.	Amend	Updated accountability portal launched.
Training in Ethics Reform Act	Any person under the Commission of the State Ethics Commission. The Commission partners with the School Board Association, Municipal Association, Association of Counties, Councils of Government, and any other organization to which the Ethics Reform Act applies.	Any person under the Commission's jurisdiction.	All South Carolinians.	Administration	Created by Section 8-13-310 to establish and enforce certain rules of ethical conduct for public officials and employees, to establish rules for election campaign finance practices, and to provide for disclosure of economic interests and to administer the lobbyist portion of the Ethics Reform Act of 1991.	Lack of training could result in increased Ethics Act violations leading to increased enforcement efforts and costs.	No Change	
Training in Ethics Reform Act	Any person under the Commission of the State Ethics Commission. The Commission partners with the School Board Association, Municipal Association, Association of Counties, Councils of Government, and any other organization to which the Ethics Reform Act applies.	Any person under the Commission's jurisdiction.	All South Carolinians.	Administration	Created by Section 8-13-310 to establish and enforce certain rules of ethical conduct for public officials and employees, to establish rules for election campaign finance practices, and to provide for disclosure of economic interests and to administer the lobbyist portion of the Ethics Reform Act of 1991.	Lack of training could result in increased Ethics Act violations leading to increased enforcement efforts and costs.	Amend	Training portal launched.
Online support to help file required reports	Any required filer.	Required filers.	All South Carolinians.	Administration	Created by Section 8-13-310 to establish and enforce certain rules of ethical conduct for public officials and employees, to establish rules for election campaign finance practices, and to provide for disclosure of economic interests and to administer the lobbyist portion of the Ethics Reform Act of 1991.	Lack of assistance could result in increased Ethics Act violations leading to increased enforcement efforts and costs.	Amend	Video tutorials and tech support added.

Description of Service	Description of Direct Customer	Customer Name	Others Impacted by Service	Division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Description of division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Primary negative impact if service not provided.	Changes made to services during FY2026	Summary of changes to services
Online support to help file required reports	Any required filer.	Required filers.	All South Carolinians.	Administration	Created by Section 8-13-310 to establish and enforce certain rules of ethical conduct for public officials and employees, to establish rules for election campaign finance practices, and to provide for disclosure of economic interests and to administer the lobbyist portion of the Ethics Reform Act of 1991.	Lack of assistance could result in increased Ethics Act violations leading to increased enforcement efforts and costs.	Amend	Video tutorials and tech support added.
Online support to help file required reports	Any required filer.	Required filers.	All South Carolinians.	Administration	Created by Section 8-13-310 to establish and enforce certain rules of ethical conduct for public officials and employees, to establish rules for election campaign finance practices, and to provide for disclosure of economic interests and to administer the lobbyist portion of the Ethics Reform Act of 1991.	Lack of assistance could result in increased Ethics Act violations leading to increased enforcement efforts and costs.	Amend	Video tutorials and tech support added.
New Candidate Training	Individuals who have filed to run for office.	Candidates	General public				No Change	

2026

Partnerships Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

R520 - STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Type of Partner Entity	Name of Partner Entity	Description of Partnership	Change to the partnership during the past fiscal year
State Government	SC Attorney General's Office	Assist with investigations as needed and refer for prosecution when appropriate	No Change
State Government	SC Department of Revenue	Participate in DOR's Setoff Debt and Governmental Entity Accounts Receivable (GEAR) programs to assist with debt collection.	No Change
State Government	SC Division of Technology	IT services and network security	No Change
State Government	SC State Election Commission	Share information regarding elections and candidates for public office (Candidates' Rosters, Cancellation of Elections, Statements of Intention of Candidacy)	No Change
Local Government	Solicitor's Offices	Refer for prosecution when appropriate	No Change
Private Business Organization	South Carolina Interactive, LLC.	Host website and maintain/update Online Filing System for candidates, elected officials, appointed officials, and public employees	No Change
State Government	State Law Enforcement Division (SLED)	Assist with investigations as needed	No Change

2026 Reports Data

as submitted for the Accountability Report by:

R520 - STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Report Name	Law Number (if applicable)	Summary of information requested in the report	Date of most recent submission DURING the past fiscal year	Reporting Frequency	Type of entity/entities	Method to access the report	Direct access hyperlink or agency contact (if not provided to LSA for posting online)	Changes to this report during the past fiscal year	Explanation why a report wasn't submitted
Fees and Fines Report		Fees and fines collected by the agency.	July 2025	Annually	South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on agency's website			

AGENCY NAME:	State Ethics Commission		
AGENCY CODE:	R520	SECTION:	110

2026
Accountability Report

SUBMISSION FORM

I have reviewed and approved the data submitted by the agency in the following templates:

- Data Template
  - Reorganization and Compliance
  - FY2026 Strategic Plan Results
  - FY2027 Strategic Plan Development
  - Legal
  - Services
  - Partnerships
  - Report or Review
  - Budget
- Discussion Template
- Organizational Template

I have reviewed and approved the financial report summarizing the agency's budget and actual expenditures, as entered by the agency into the South Carolina Enterprise Information System.

The information submitted is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

AGENCY DIRECTOR *(SIGN AND DATE)*:	**SIGNATURE ON FILE**	**Signature Received:** 09/11/2026
(TYPE/PRINT NAME):	Meghan W. Dayson	

BOARD/CMSN CHAIR *(SIGN AND DATE)*:	**SIGNATURE ON FILE**	**Signature Received:** 09/11/2026
(TYPE/PRINT NAME):	Neal D. Truslow	