

Senate Ethics Committee

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ADVISORY OPINION 2016-2

Pursuant to South Carolina Senate Rule 44(A) and S.C. Code Ann. Section 8-13-530(1) (Supp. 2015), the Senate Ethics Committee (the “Committee”) is charged, in part, with the duty “to ascertain whether a person has failed to comply fully and accurately with the disclosure requirements of Chapter 13 of Title 8.” The only practical method to identify whether a person has fully and accurately complied with the campaign reporting requirements is to compare the campaign disclosure report with the applicable campaign banking statements. Therefore, the Committee will hereafter require that all Senate members, candidates, and former candidates with an open campaign banking account submit copies of their monthly campaign banking statements applicable to the prior quarter’s campaign disclosure report to coincide with the filing of the current quarterly campaign disclosure report. **On or before the deadline to file the April 10, 2016, Campaign Disclosure Report**, all Senate members, candidates, and former candidates with an open campaign banking account should submit copies of their monthly campaign banking statements applicable to the January 10, 2016, Campaign Disclosure Report, which covered the months of October, November and December, 2015. Campaign banking statements should be submitted for all campaign checking, savings, and money market accounts.

The following table illustrates the required monthly campaign banking statements that must be filed to coincide with each of the campaign filing periods.

Filing Period	Prior Quarter	Monthly Bank Statements Required
April 10 Report	January 10 Report	October, November and December
July 10 Report	April 10 Report	January, February and March
October 10 Report	July 10 Report	April, May and June
January 10 Report	October 10 Report	July, August and September

Campaign banking statements do not need to be filed in conjunction with Pre-Election Reports.

Copies of campaign banking statements may be hand-delivered to Room 205 of the Gressette Building, scanned and submitted electronically to SEthicsFiling@scsenate.gov, or mailed to the following address:

South Carolina Senate
Senate Ethics Committee
Post Office Box 142
Columbia, SC 29202

Campaign banking statements submitted electronically will be printed. The Committee will store paper copies of the campaign banking statements in a locked cabinet. Unless violations are discovered, the statements will be retained only for so long as it is necessary to complete an audit of each respective campaign disclosure report. Upon completion of each audit, the paper copies of those campaign banking statements will be shredded, and any electronic copies will be deleted.

The Committee further advises that the failure to submit copies of campaign banking statements on or before the **tenth (10th)** day of the month for which a quarterly campaign disclosure report is due will result in the Committee issuing a warning/reminder and extending the period for five (5) additional days. Further non-compliance may result in the Committee filing a formal ethics complaint against you and issuing a subpoena to your financial institution to compel the production of your campaign banking statements.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Luke A. Rankin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Luke A." on the top line and "Rankin" on the bottom line.

Luke A. Rankin, Chairman
March 1, 2016