

The Supreme Court of South Carolina

Carla Taylor, Respondent,

v.

Kenneth McIver, Caroline Gore, and Derrick Stevens in
their official capacities as members of the Town of
Atlantic Beach Municipal Election Commission,
Appellants.

Appellate Case No. 2024-001889

ORDER

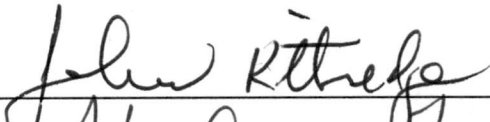



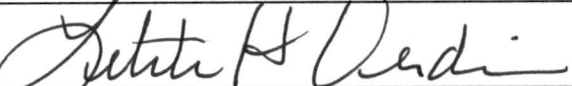
In January 2025, this Court dismissed Appellants' appeal of a circuit court order denying an election protest regarding the November 2023 Atlantic Beach Town Council election. Following the dismissal, Respondent filed a motion for costs and sanctions against Appellants.

This Court is unfortunately very familiar with the shockingly poor conduct of Appellants and the legal disputes that appear to inevitably accompany almost every municipal election held in the Town of Atlantic Beach. In 2011, the Court specifically admonished the Atlantic Beach Municipal Election Commission (the Commission) for obstructing the Town Council election process and the manner in which the Commission conducted election protest hearings and noted the Commission's behavior caused the Court to question whether future election protests could be properly conducted by the Commission without direct monitoring by the State Election Commission. *Cole v. Town of Atl. Beach Election Comm'n*, 393 S.C. 264, 275, 712 S.E.2d 440, 446 (2011). The Court further warned the Town and the Commission that it had "grown weary of the shenanigans engaged in by all parties involved in the election process at Atlantic Beach" and would "not hesitate to issue sanctions if the election laws of this State continue to be blatantly disregarded." *Id.*

Based on the underlying facts and procedural history of the instant matter, it

appears Appellants did not heed the Court's warning and have continued their recalcitrant conduct. Therefore, based on Appellants' conduct and the fact that the Court granted Respondent's motion to dismiss, we grant Respondent's motion for costs and award Respondent \$2,500 in attorney's fees and \$50 in costs pursuant to Rule 222(b), SCACR. We further award Respondent \$8,660 in sanctions pursuant to Rule 269, SCACR.

In light of Appellants' conduct, we consider these sanctions to be *modest*. We strongly warn Appellants that should their disdainful behavior continue, we will not hesitate to impose significantly more substantial sanctions in the future.

	C.J.
	J.
	J.
	J.
	J.

Columbia, South Carolina
April 3, 2025

cc:
La'Jessica M. Stringfellow
Robert E. Tyson, Jr.
Dwayne Marvin Green
Stephen Peterson Groves, Sr.
Reese R. Boyd III
Renee Elvis