

1 08 NCAC 21 .0906 is proposed for adoption as follows:

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3 **08 NCAC 21 .0906 Preliminary Investigation**

4 (a) State Board staff shall complete a preliminary investigation of a complaint within 120 days of receipt.

5 (b) When conducting a preliminary investigation, the scope of the State Board's investigation shall not be limited to
6 the allegations in the complaint.

7 (c) If the preliminary investigation establishes reason to believe that a respondent may have engaged in conduct that
8 could result in the issuance of a civil penalty under G.S. 163-278.34(b) or could result in a criminal penalty under G.S.
9 163-278.27, the State Board staff shall open a case and initiate a formal investigation. Staff shall also open a case and
10 initiate a formal investigation if there is reason to believe that a respondent may have willfully attempted to conceal
11 contributions or expenditure under G.S. 163-278.34(a).

12 (d) The Executive Director may extend the deadline in Paragraph (a) of this Rule if an audit of the political committee
13 or referendum committee is required to identify potential violations.

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15 *History Note: Authority G.S. 163-278.21; 163-278.22;*

16 *Eff. November 1, 2026.*