



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

DECISION ON APPEAL

In the matter of the campaign finance penalty appeal
By Election Committee for Jeff Vaughan (CC-25-00587)
December 1, 2025

FACTS

The above-named petitioner had four campaign finance reports due from July 15, 2025 to October 27, 2025. Petitioner submitted the required reports on September 9, 2025, November 3, 2025, and November 4, 2025. A \$3,100 civil penalty for failure to file the required reports was issued by Page County General Registrar on October 29, 2025.

Pursuant to § 24.2-953.6 of the Code of Virginia (the Code), petitioner submitted a *Petition to Appeal Campaign Finance Penalty* to the State Board of Elections (SBE) on November 5, 2025. Petitioner sought relief in the form of a forgiveness of the assessed penalties. Petitioner's basis for appeal was that there was an administrative error in the assessment of the penalty. Petitioner stated that good cause existed to provide relief due to his misunderstanding of the filing process and filing requirements.

DECISION

The SBE heard the appeal on December 1, 2025. Pursuant to § 24.2-953.6 of the Code, the SBE determined the petitioner demonstrated good cause to grant relief, not in the amount requested but in the form of a reduction of the total penalty amount from \$3,100 to \$100.

RATIONALE

In finding that the petitioner demonstrated good cause, the SBE noted a prior decision on a similar appeal where there was a lack of communication between the general registrar's office and the petitioner regarding notice of penalties.

John M. O'Bannon
John M. O'Bannon (Dec 11, 2025 19:28:36 EST)

John O'Bannon
Chairman, State Board of Elections

Rosalyn R. Dance
Rosalyn R. Dance (Dec 15, 2025 12:17:20 EST)

Rosalyn R. Dance
Vice-Chairman, State Board of Elections

Georgia Alvis-Long
Georgia Alvis-Long (Dec 12, 2025 09:21:01 EST)

Georgia Alvis-Long
Secretary, State Board of Elections

Christopher P. Stolle
Christopher P. Stolle (Dec 15, 2025 13:52:38 EST)

Christopher P. Stolle
Member, State Board of Elections

JC Petersen
JC Petersen (Dec 15, 2025 16:07:27 EST)

J. Chapman Petersen
Member, State Board of Elections