



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

DECISION ON APPEAL

In the matter of the campaign finance penalty appeal  
by Fred Lee Wright (CC-23-01544)  
November 17, 2025

**FACTS**

The above-named petitioner had campaign finance (9) reports due from July 17, 2023 to July 15, 2025. Petitioner submitted the final report, for the July 17, 2023 report, on September 23, 2025. A \$7,200 civil penalty for failure to file the required reports was issued by King and Queen County General Registrar on September 19, 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 October 2, 2025. Petitioner sought relief in the form of “full forgiveness” of the penalty. 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 the initial lack of notice of penalties.

**DECISION**

The SBE heard the appeal on November 17, 2025. Pursuant to § 24.2-953.6 of the Code, the SBE determined that the petitioner demonstrated good cause to justify relief as requested.

**RATIONALE**

In finding that the petitioner demonstrated good cause, the SBE noted the lack of communication between the General Registrar’s office and the petitioner regarding notice of penalties, raising due process concerns about proper notice. The SBE also noted that the petitioner filed the required final report the same day as the issuance of the penalty.

John M. O'Bannon  
John M. O'Bannon (Nov 27, 2025 09:24:02 EST)

John O'Bannon  
Chairman, State Board of Elections

Rosalyn R. Dance  
Rosalyn R. Dance (Nov 30, 2025 13:11:39 EST)

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

Georgia Alvis-Long  
Georgia Alvis-Long (Dec 3, 2025 17:14:08 EST)

Georgia Alvis-Long  
Secretary, State Board of Elections

Christopher P. Stolle  
Christopher P. Stolle (Dec 5, 2025 11:11:46 EST)

Christopher P. Stolle  
Member, State Board of Elections

J. Chapman Petersen  
J. Chapman Petersen (Dec 5, 2025 14:15:09 EST)

J. Chapman Petersen  
Member, State Board of Elections