



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

DECISION ON APPEAL

In the matter of the campaign finance penalty appeal
by Jennifer Bowles for City County (CC-14-00251)
November 17, 2025

FACTS

The above-named petitioner had campaign finance reports (7) due from July 15, 2021 to July 15, 2025. Petitioner submitted the required reports on March 9, 2022, June 12, 2022, July 8, 2023, and September 5, 2025. A \$5,200 civil penalty for failure to file the required reports was issued by Martinsville City General Registrar on September 3, 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 September 4, 2025. Petitioner sought relief in the form of forgiveness of all assessed penalties (\$5,200). Petitioner's basis for appeal was that circumstances made filing the required report or requesting an extension by the deadline impracticable, and there was an administrative error in the assessment of the penalty. Petitioner stated that good cause existed to provide relief due to technical difficulties, nonintentional noncompliance, and financial hardship.

DECISION

The SBE heard the appeal on November 17, 2025. Pursuant to § 24.2-953.6 of the Code, the SBE determined the petitioner demonstrated good cause to justify the granting of 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 lack of notice. The SBE also noted that the petitioner has made efforts to prevent further incidents of noncompliance in the future.

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