



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

DECISION ON APPEAL

In the matter of the campaign finance penalty appeal
by Matthew Cross School Board 3 2021 (CC-21-00192)
November 17, 2025

FACTS

The above-named petitioner had campaign finance (11) reports due from December 2, 2021 to July 15, 2025. Petitioner submitted the required reports on March 1, 2022, August 3, 2022, January 18, 2023, and July 17, 2025. A \$9,200 civil penalty for failure to file the required reports was issued by Rockingham County General Registrar on July 18, 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 a reduction of the penalty to \$500. 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 technical difficulties, a statute of limitations (VA § 19.2-8), and the 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 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 \$9,200 to \$1,000.

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 the potential applicability of the statute of limitations raised by petitioner.

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 5, 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