



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

DECISION ON APPEAL

In the matter of the campaign finance penalty appeal
by Doug Aubel (CC-23-01561)
January 14, 2026

FACTS

The above-named petitioner had campaign finance reports due from 2015 to 2025. Petitioner submitted a final report, for the January 15, 2026 report, on December 19, 2025. A \$37,100 civil penalty for failure to file the required reports was issued by Lunenburg County General Registrar on December 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 December 17, 2025. Petitioner sought relief in the form of forgiveness of the assessed 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, and an alleged communication that reports are not required by the General Registrar's office.

DECISION

The SBE heard the appeal on January 14, 2026. 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. The SBE also noted that the petitioner was allegedly informed that they were not required to file campaign finance reports.

John M. O'Bannon

John M. O'Bannon (Feb 2, 2026 17:53:24 EST)

John O'Bannon
Chairman, State Board of Elections

Rosalyn R. Dance

Rosalyn R. Dance (Feb 2, 2026 15:51:41 EST)

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

Georgia Alvis-Long

Georgia Alvis-Long (Feb 2, 2026 15:55:51 EST)

Georgia Alvis-Long
Secretary, State Board of Elections

Christopher P. Stolle

Christopher P. Stolle (Feb 2, 2026 17:59:31 EST)

Christopher P. Stolle
Member, State Board of Elections

J. Chapman Petersen
Member, State Board of Elections