



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
DECISION ON APPEAL

In the matter of the campaign finance penalty appeal
by Thomas Burns (CC-23-00543)
January 14, 2026

FACTS

The above-named petitioner had campaign finance reports due from 2023 to 2025. Petitioner submitted the reports on December 1, 2025. A \$7,200 civil penalty for failure to file a required report was issued by Bath County General Registrar on October 22, 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 27, 2025. Petitioner sought relief in the form of the “full relief of the 7,200 fine.” Petitioner’s basis for appeal was that circumstances made filing the required report or requesting an extension by the deadline impracticable. Petitioner stated that good cause existed to provide relief due to loss of access to email in early 2024.

DECISION

The SBE heard the appeal on January 14, 2026, continued from December 1, 2025. Pursuant to § 24.2-953.6 of the Code, the SBE granted relief as requested by the petitioner for ability to demonstrate good cause.

RATIONALE

In finding that the petitioner demonstrated good cause, the SBE noted that the petitioner had lost access to email address in 2024, which prevented receipt of deadline notifications. The SBE also noted the lack of communication between the General Registrar’s office and the petitioner regarding notice of penalties.

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 15:59:31 EST)

Christopher P. Stolle
Member, State Board of Elections

J. Chapman Petersen
Member, State Board of Elections