



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
DECISION ON APPEAL

In the matter of the campaign finance penalty appeal
by W R “Bobby” Lyons II (CC-19-00573)
January 14, 2026

FACTS

The above-named petitioner had campaign finance reports due from 2019 to 2025. Petitioner submitted the reports on October 15, 2025. A \$16,300 civil penalty for failure to file a required report was issued by Carroll County General Registrar on August 20, 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 17, 2025. Petitioner sought relief in the form of forgiveness of the assessed penalty. 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 a lack of notification of the lack of compliance in filing the required reports, and belief that the committee had been previously closed with a final report.

DECISION

The SBE heard the appeal on January 14, 2026, continued from November 17, 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 the lack of communication between the General Registrar’s office and the petitioner regarding notice of penalties. The SBE also noted that the petitioner has no prior late campaign finance report filings on record.

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 15:03:21 EST)

Christopher P. Stolle
Member, State Board of Elections

J. Chapman Petersen
Member, State Board of Elections