COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
DECISION ON APPEAL

In the matter of the campaign finance penalty appeal
by Friends of Donna Lee Biggs (CC-26-00246)
September 15, 2026

FACTS

The above-named petitioner had campaign finance reports due July 27, 2026, at 11:59:59 PM. Petitioner submitted the required report on August 7, 2026, at 12:35 PM. A $100 civil penalty for failure to file a required report was issued by Portsmouth General Registrar on August 3, 2026.

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 August 4, 2026. 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 the candidate allegedly not receiving assistance filing the campaign finance report.

DECISION

The SBE heard the appeal on September 15, 2026. Pursuant to § 24.2-953.6 of the Code, the SBE dismissed the appeal for failure to show good cause to justify relief.

RATIONALE

In finding that the petitioner failed to demonstrate good cause, the SBE noted that there was documentation of assistance attempts, by ELECT, to provide guidance on closing the committee account.

John Maurice O'Bannon, III
John Maurice O'Bannon, III (Oct 1, 2026 11:32:23 EDT)

John O'Bannon
Chairman, State Board of Elections

Rosalyn R Dance (Oct 1, 2026 09:57:07 EDT)

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

Georgia Alvis-Long
Georgia Alvis-Long (Sep 30, 2026 17:45:22 EDT)

Georgia Alvis-Long
Secretary, State Board of Elections

Christopher P Stolle
Christopher P Stolle (Oct 1, 2026 10:41:08 PDT)

Christopher P. Stolle
Member, State Board of Elections

Sally Hudson
Sally Hudson (Oct 7, 2026 10:56:58 EDT)

Sally Hudson
Member, State Board of Elections