



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
DECISION ON APPEAL

In the matter of the campaign finance penalty appeal
by Friends of Michelle Rief (CC-18-00205)
May 28, 2026

FACTS

The above-named petitioner had campaign finance reports due January 15, 2026, at 11:59:59 PM. Petitioner submitted the required report on February 1, 2026, at 6:38 PM. A \$1,000 civil penalty for failure to file a required report was issued by Alexandria City General Registrar on February 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 March 3, 2026. Petitioner sought relief in the form of reduction of the assessed penalty to \$100. 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 spam email attack, which contributed to the candidate missing the deadline.

DECISION

The SBE heard the appeal on May 28, 2026, continued from April 8, 2026. 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 petitioner's documented spam email attack, which made it difficult to identify legitimate emails. The SBE also noted that the petitioner has taken steps to resolve this issue and prevent reoccurrence in the future.

John m O'Bannon

John m O'Bannon (Jun 1, 2026 18:39:39 EDT)

John O'Bannon
Chairman, State Board of Elections

Rosalyn R. Dance

Rosalyn R Dance (Jun 9, 2026 16:04:18 EDT)

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

Georgia Alvis-Long

Georgia Alvis Long (Jun 10, 2026 11:07:11 EDT)

Georgia Alvis-Long
Secretary, State Board of Elections

Christopher P. Stolle
Member, State Board of Elections

Sally Hudson

Sally Hudson (Jun 6, 2026 10:35:12 EDT)

Sally Hudson
Member, State Board of Elections