



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
DECISION ON APPEAL

In the matter of the campaign finance penalty appeal
by Rick Johnson for Staunton Treasurer (CC-25-00652)
May 28, 2026

FACTS

The above-named petitioner had a campaign finance report due January 15, 2026, at 11 :59:59 PM. Petitioner submitted the required report on January 28, 2026, at 8:07 PM. A \$100 civil penalty for failure to file a required report was issued by Staunton City General Registrar on February 10, 2026.

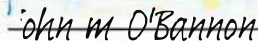
Pursuant to§ 24.2-953.6 of the Code of Virginia (the Code), petitioner submitted a *Petition to Appeal Campaign Finance Penalty* to the State Board of Elections (SBE) on April 9, 2026. Petitioner sought relief in the form of forgiveness of the assessed penalty. Petitioner's basis for appeal was that circumstances made filing the required report or requesting an extension by the deadline impractical. Petitioner stated that good cause existed to provide relief due to their assumption that their filing requirements had stopped after the election date passed.

DECISION

The SBE heard the appeal on May 28, 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 good faith misunderstanding of filing requirements. The SBE also noted that the petitioner's confusion regarding not knowing if he could continue to run for office if he filed a final report and consequently did not file the report timely.


John O'Bannon
John O'Bannon (Jun 1, 2026 18:39:39 EDT)
Chairman, State Board of Elections

Christopher P. Stolle
Member, State Board of Elections


Rosalyn R. Dance
Rosalyn R Dance (Jun 9, 2026 16:04:18 EDT)
Vice-Chairman, State Board of Elections


Sally Hudson
Sally Hudson (Jun 6, 2026 10:35:12 EDT)
Member, State Board of Elections


Georgia Alvis-Long
Georgia Alvis-Long (Jun 10, 2026 11:07:11 EDT)
Secretary, State Board of Elections