COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
DECISION ON APPEAL

In the matter of the campaign finance penalty appeal
by Virginia 3rd District GOP (PP-12-00626)
September 15, 2026

FACTS

The above-named petitioner had a campaign finance report due July 15, 2026, at 11:59:59 PM. Petitioner submitted the required report on August 10, 2026, at 7:58 PM. A $1,000 civil penalty for failure to file a required report was issued by ELECT on July 16, 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 13, 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 reports or requesting an extension by the deadline impracticable. Petitioner stated that good cause existed to provide relief due to a change in administration and the current treasurer not having access to the committee reporting in COMET.

DECISION

The SBE heard the appeal on September 15, 2026. Pursuant to § 24.2-953.6 of the Code, the SBE determined the petitioner demonstrated good cause to grant relief, not in the amount requested but in the form of a reduction of the total penalty amount from $1,000 to $500.

RATIONALE

In finding that the petitioner failed to demonstrate good cause, the SBE noted that the committee made an effort to get access to the committee accounts with ELECT. The SBE also noted prior late report filings for the committee.

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
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 17:46:22 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