



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
DECISION ON APPEAL

In the matter of the campaign finance penalty appeal
by Friends of Carletta E Whiting (CC-21-01016)
April 8, 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 January 16, 2026, at 8:15 AM. A \$1,000 civil penalty for failure to file a required report was issued by Franklin County General Registrar on January 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 February 3, 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 alleged technical difficulties while attempting to file the report.

DECISION

The SBE heard the appeal on April 8, 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 \$250.

RATIONALE

In finding that the petitioner demonstrated good cause, the SBE noted the financial and technical difficulties experienced by the petitioner. The SBE also noted that the petitioner has prior late campaign finance report filings on record.

John M. O'Bannon
John M. O'Bannon (Apr 20, 2026 09:56:57 EDT)

John O'Bannon
Chairman, State Board of Elections

Rosalyn R. Dance
Rosalyn R Dance (Apr 28, 2026 09:15:55 EDT)

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

Georgia Alvis-Long
Georgia Alvis-Long (Apr 19, 2026 17:11:35 EDT)

Georgia Alvis-Long
Secretary, State Board of Elections

Christopher P. Stolle
Christopher P. Stolle (Apr 28, 2026 09:05:59 EDT)

Christopher P. Stolle
Member, State Board of Elections

Sally Hudson
Sally Hudson (Apr 24, 2026 08:46:29 EDT)

Sally Hudson
Member, State Board of Elections