



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

DECISION ON APPEAL

In the matter of the campaign finance penalty appeal
by Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association, Inc. (PAC-12-00637)
January 14, 2026

FACTS

The above-named petitioner had campaign finance reports due on May 28, 2025, June 7, 2025, and June 9, 2025. Petitioner submitted the required reports on September 15, 2025. A \$2,100 civil penalty for failure to file a required report was issued by ELECT on September 30, 2025.

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 October 8, 2025. 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 alleged difficulties with bookkeeping and lack of knowledge of the Large Pre-Election Contribution Reporting requirements.

DECISION

The SBE heard the appeal on January 14, 2026, continued from November 17, 2025. 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 \$2,100 to \$1,000.

RATIONALE

In finding that the petitioner demonstrated good cause, the SBE noted that the committee experienced issues accessing information related to their bookkeeping. The SBE also noted that the committee has taken steps to prevent failed report filings in the future.

John M. O'Bannon

John M. O'Bannon (Feb 2, 2026 17:53:24 EST)

John O'Bannon
Chairman, State Board of Elections

Rosalyn R. Dance

Rosalyn R Dance (Feb 2, 2026 15:51:41 EST)

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

Georgia Alvis-Long

Georgia Alvis-Long (Feb 2, 2026 15:55:51 EST)

Georgia Alvis-Long
Secretary, State Board of Elections

Christopher P. Stolle

Christopher P Stolle (Feb 2, 2026 15:59:31 EST)

Christopher P. Stolle
Member, State Board of Elections

J. Chapman Petersen
Member, State Board of Elections