



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

DECISION ON APPEAL

In the matter of the campaign finance penalty appeal
by Steve M. Draper (CC-25-00852)

November 17, 2025

FACTS

The above-named petitioner had campaign finance reports (3) due from December 2, 2021 to July 15, 2025, and a Statement of Organization due on March 15, 2025. Petitioner submitted the required reports on August 26, 2025, and the Statement of Organization on August 22, 2025. A \$2,600 civil penalty for failure to file the required reports was issued by Martinsville City General Registrar on September 3, 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 September 15, 2025. Petitioner sought relief in the form of forgiveness of all assessed penalties. Petitioner's basis for appeal was that there was an administrative error in the assessment of the penalty. Petitioner stated that good cause existed to provide relief due to a miscommunication with the General Registrar's office, regarding campaign finance obligations.

DECISION

The SBE heard the appeal on November 17, 2025. Pursuant to § 24.2-953.6 of the Code, the SBE determined the petitioner demonstrated good cause to justify granting relief, not as requested but in the form of a reduction of the total penalties from \$2,600 to \$500.

RATIONALE

In finding that the petitioner demonstrated good cause, the SBE noted the lack of communication between the General Registrar's office and the petitioner regarding notice of penalties, raising due process concerns about proper notice. The SBE noted that, prior to the assessment of penalties, the General Registrar requested the Statement of Organization filing by the petitioner (indicating notice).

John M. O'Bannon
John M. O'Bannon (Nov 27, 2025 09:24:02 EST)

John O'Bannon
Chairman, State Board of Elections

Rosalyn R. Dance
Rosalyn R. Dance (Nov 30, 2025 13:11:39 EST)

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

Georgia Alvis-Long
Georgia Alvis-Long (Dec 3, 2025 17:14:08 EST)

Georgia Alvis-Long
Secretary, State Board of Elections

Christopher P. Stolle
Christopher P. Stolle (Dec 5, 2025 11:11:46 EST)

Christopher P. Stolle
Member, State Board of Elections

J. Chapman Petersen
J. Chapman Petersen (Dec 5, 2025 14:15:09 EST)

J. Chapman Petersen
Member, State Board of Elections