

**For immediate release**

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**Petition nomination deadline extended**

The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Virginia announces that the deadline for receiving nominations by petition for Bishop Coadjutor has been extended to **Wednesday, December 6, 2006**. Petitions received at Mayo House by 6:00 p.m. on that day will be considered valid.

The Standing Committee is offering the five-day extension out of concern that the people of the diocese have enough time to file petition nominations if they so choose. A slight delay in the announcement of the Nominating Committee's slate made a challenging timeline even more so. With the slate named, responsibility for additional nominations now rests with the Standing Committee.

"We are deeply grateful to the members of the Nominating Committee for their commitment, diligence and prayerfulness in selecting the fine slate they have presented," said Colonel Jean Reed, President of the Standing Committee. The names and biographical information on the five women and men on that slate are published on the Web at [www.virginiabishop.info](http://www.virginiabishop.info).

Reed continued, "In order to support an open and accessible process, we have decided to extend the petition deadline, allowing an additional weekend plus three business days."

While the guidelines for nominations by petition were available in October and published in early November, the Standing Committee is aware that some members of the diocese may have waited until the slate was made public before initiating petitions.

The original deadline was set for December 1 to allow ample time to secure the same background checks required of those under consideration by the Nominating Committee. This extension provides more time without compromising the ability of the Standing Committee to conduct background checks on any petition nominees.

As previously publicized, nominations from the floor will not be allowed at the electing council, scheduled for January 27-28, 2007 in Richmond.

For more information on petition nominees and the rules governing the election, visit [virginiabishop.info](http://virginiabishop.info), or contact Colonel Reed.