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BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO AS THE DULY CONSTITUTED ELECTORAL BOARD FOR THE HEARING AND PASSING UPON OBJECTIONS TO NOMINATION PAPERS OF CANDIDATES FOR THE MARCH 21, 2000 GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION FOR STATE SENATOR, REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND WARD COMMITTEEMAN IN THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Objections of: BRIDGET R. HOWLEIT	)	
	)	
To the Nomination	)	
Papers of: WALTER HOWARD	)	
	)	No. 00-EB-WC-026
Candidate for the office of	)	
Ward Committeeman for the 28th Ward of the City	)	
of Chicago, Democratic Party	)	

FINDINGS AND DECISION

The duly constituted Electoral Board, consisting of Board of Election Commissioners of the City of Chicago Commissioners Langdon D. Neal, Richard A. Cowen, and Theresa M. Petrone, organized by law in response to a Call issued by Langdon D. Neal, Chairman of said Electoral Board, for the purpose of hearing and passing upon objections ("Objections") of BRIDGET R. HOWLEIT ("Objector(s)") to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of WALTER HOWARD, candidate for election to the office of Ward Committeeman for the 28th Ward of the City of Chicago, Democratic Party ("Candidate"), having convened on January 10, 2000, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 800, 69 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois; and having heard and determined the Objections to the Nomination Papers in the above-entitled matter finds that:

1. Objections to the Nomination Papers of the Candidate herein were duly and timely filed.

2. The said Electoral board has been legally constituted according to the laws of the State of Illinois.

3. A Call to the hearing on said Objections was duly issued by the Chairman of the Electoral Board and served upon the members of the Electoral Board, the Objectors(s) and the Candidate, by registered or certified mail and by Sheriff's service, as provided by statute.

4. A public hearing held on these Objections commenced on January 10, 2000 and was continued from time to time.

5. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Examiner GREGORY GINEX for further hearings and proceedings.

6. The Objector(s) and the Candidate were directed by the Electoral Board's Call served upon them to appear before the Hearing Examiner on the date and at the time designated in the Call. The following persons, among others, were present at such hearing: the Objector(s), BRIDGET R. HOWLEIT, by counsel; and the Candidate, WALTER HOWARD, pro se.

7. The Hearing Examiner ordered that an examination of the registration records be conducted by clerks and agents under the Board's direction and supervision, in accordance with the laws of Illinois and the rules of the Board.

8. The Hearing Examiner directed all parties to appear and be present, either personally and/or by their authorized representatives during the record examination.

9. The Candidate was not present during the examination of the registration records.

10. The Objector(s) and/or her duly authorized representative(s) were present during the examination of the registration records.

11. The examination of the registration records was completed and the Electoral Board hereby adopts and incorporates by reference the results of the records examination conducted by its clerks and agents. The written report of the result of the registration records examination is contained in the Electoral Board's file in this case and is available for inspection upon request of a party.

12. The Electoral Board has considered all evidence and arguments tendered by the parties.

13. The Electoral Board finds that:

    a. The minimum number of valid signatures required by law for placement on the ballot for the office in question is 342;

    b. The number of purportedly valid signatures appearing on the nominating petition filed by the Candidate total 554;

    c. The number of signatures deemed invalid because of objections sustained total 335;

    d. The remaining number of signatures deemed valid total 199;

14. The Electoral Board finds that the number of valid signatures appearing on the Candidate's nominating petition following completion of the records examination is below the minimum number of valid signatures required by law to placed upon the official ballot as a candidate for election to the office of Ward Committeeman for the 28th Ward of the City of Chicago, Democratic Party.

15. The Electoral Board finds, therefore, that paragraph(s) 5-11 of the Objectors(s)' Petition are sustained in part and overruled in part as more fully indicated in the results of the records examination.

16. The Candidate, WALTER HOWARD, failed to attend either the records examination or the continued hearing on January 18, 2000.

17. In view of the results of the records examination and the Candidate's failure to attend the hearings much less present a defense against the objections against his Nomination Papers, it is unnecessary to review any other allegations raised in the Objector's Petition

17. For the reasons stated above, the Electoral Board finds that the Nomination Papers of WALTER HOWARD are not valid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of BRIDGET R. HOWLEIT to the Nomination Papers of WALTER HOWARD, candidate for election to the office of Ward Committeeman for the 28th Ward of the City of Chicago, Democratic Party, are hereby SUSTAINED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared INVALID and the name of WALTER HOWARD, candidate for election to the office of Ward Committeeman for the 28th Ward of the City of Chicago, Democratic Party, SHALL NOT be printed on the official ballot for the General Primary to be held on March 21, 2000.

Dated: Chicago, Illinois, this 28th day of January, 2000.

Langdon D. Neal, Chairman

Richard A. Cowen, Commissioner

Theresa M. Petrone, Commissioner

NOTICE: Pursuant to Section 10-10.1 of the Election Code (10 ILCS 5/10-10.1) a party aggrieved of this decision and seeking judicial review of this decision must file a petition for judicial review with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County within 10 days after the decision of the Electoral Board.