NBCOFF-ALD

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO AS A DULY CONSTITUTED ELECTORAL BOARD

Objections of: MARGARET WILSON	)	
	)	
To the Nomination	)	
Papers of: CHRISTOPHER STAVRIANOS	)	No.: 03-EB-ALD-118
	)	
Candidate for the office of	)	
Alderman of the Twenty-seventh Ward, City of	)	
Chicago	)	

FINDINGS AND DECISION

The duly constituted Electoral Board, consisting of Board of Election Commissioners of the City of Chicago Commissioners Langdon D. Neal, Theresa M. Petrone, and Richard A. Cowen, 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 MARGARET WILSON ("Objector") to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of CHRISTOPHER STAVRIANOS, candidate for the office of Alderman of the Twenty-seventh Ward of the City of Chicago ("Candidate") to be elected at the Municipal General Election to be held on February 25, 2003, having convened on December 30, 2002, at 10:00 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 Objector 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 December 30, 2002 and was continued from time to time.

5. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Examiner CASSANDRA B. WATSON for further hearings and proceedings.

6. The Objector and the Candidate were directed by the Electoral Board to appear before the Hearing Examiner on the date and at the time designated in the Trial Call. The following

persons, among others, were present at such hearing; the Objector, MARGARET WILSON, by counsel; and the Candidate, CHRISTOPHER STAVRIANOS, pro se.

7. At the January 2, 2003 hearing in this matter, the Hearing Examiner directed that a records examination be conducted in this matter. The Hearing Examiner scheduled a status hearing on the records examination on January 7, 2003.

8. At the January 7, 2003 hearing, the Objector was present through counsel but the Candidate failed to appear without cause shown. In addition, no motions had been filed by the Candidate and no records examination had yet been conducted. The Hearing Examiner then scheduled another status hearing for January 9, 2003.

9. At the January 9, 2003 hearing, the Objector was present through counsel, but the Candidate failed to appear without cause shown. The Objector made an oral motion for the default of the Candidate. The Hearing Examiner denied the motion and re-set the matter for a status hearing on January 15, 2003.

10. At the January 15, 2003 hearing, the Objector was present through counsel, but the Candidate again failed to appear without cause shown. The Objector renewed her motion for default of the Candidate. The Hearing Examiner reviewed the transcript of the previous hearing, the Candidate's Nomination Papers and the Objector's Petition. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Hearing Examiner made the following findings on the record:

A. The Candidate had failed to appear without any cause shown at the last three scheduled hearings in this matter.

B. A review of the Candidate's Nomination Papers and the Objector's Petition revealed that:

1. The Candidate had submitted approximately 453 signatures;
2. The Objector had objected to approximately 377 signatures;
3. The Objector's Petition states sufficient grounds which, accepted as true, would invalidate the Candidate's Nomination Papers;
4. The total valid signatures after Objections taken as true at this time are 76.
5. The minimum signature requirement is 240;
6. The Candidate's Nomination Papers do not contain the minimum number of signatures required and are therefore invalid.

11. The Hearing Examiner recommends that the Candidate's Nomination Papers be found insufficient in law and in fact.

12. The Electoral Board, having reviewed the applicable law and having considered all the evidence and arguments of the parties as well as the Hearing Examiner's recommended findings and conclusions of law, hereby adopts the Hearing Examiner's recommended

findings and conclusions of law and finds that the Candidate should be held in default and that his Nomination Papers are invalid

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of MARGARET WILSON to the Nomination Papers of CHRISTOPHER STAVRIANOS, candidate for election to the office of Alderman of the Twenty-seventh Ward of the City of Chicago are hereby SUSTAINED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared INVALID and the name of CHRISTOPHER STAVRIANOS, candidate for election to the office of Alderman of the Twenty-seventh Ward of the City of Chicago, SHALL NOT be printed on the official ballot for the Municipal General Election to be held on February 25, 2003.

Dated: Chicago, Illinois, this Twenty-First day of January, 2003.

Langdon D. Neal, Chairman

Theresa M. Petrone, Commissioner

Richard A. Cowen, 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.