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

Objections of: LESTER C. JEDYNAK	)
	)
To the Nomination	)
Papers of: RAYMOND CASIANO	)
	) No. 04-EB-WC-57
Candidate for the office of Ward Committeeman for	) [rel. 04-EB-WC-56]
the 31st Ward of the City of Chicago, Republican	)
Party	)

FINDINGS AND DECISION

The duly constituted Electoral Board, consisting of Chicago Board of Election 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 LESTER C. JEDYNAK ("Objector") to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of RAYMOND CASIANO, candidate for election to the office of Ward Committeeman for the 31st Ward of the City of Chicago, Republican Party ("Candidate"), having convened on January 5, 2004, at 2:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, 121 North LaSalle Street, 2nd Floor, 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 January 5, 2004 and was continued from time to time.

5. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Examiner RODNEY W. STEWART for further hearings and proceedings.

6. The Objector and the Candidate were directed by the Electoral Board to appear before the Hearing Examiner for a hearing on the date and at the time designated on the Electoral Board's docket. The following persons, among others, were present at such hearing: the Objector, LESTER C. JEDYNAK, by his attorney; and the Candidate, RAYMOND CASIANO, by his attorney.

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 records examination.

9. The Candidate or his duly authorized representative(s) was present during the examination of the registration records.

10. The Objector or his duly authorized representative(s) was 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 results 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 115;

    b. The number of purportedly valid signatures appearing on the nominating petition filed by the Candidate total 150;

    c. The number of signatures deemed invalid because of objections sustained total 41;

    d. The remaining number of signatures deemed valid total 109;

14. The Electoral Board finds that the results of the records examination reflected that the number of valid signatures appearing on the Candidate's nominating petition following completion of the records examination was less than the minimum number of valid signatures required by law to be placed upon the official ballot as

a candidate for election to the office of Ward Committeeman for the 31st Ward of the City of Chicago, Republican Party.

15. The Electoral Board further finds that subsequent to the records examination, an evidentiary hearing was conducted at which the Candidate presented evidence by way of his own testimony, and the testimony of a notary public and the Board's handwriting expert, that reversed the findings of the Board's clerks at the records examination, resulting in a finding that the Candidate had an additional 8 valid signatures on his Nomination Papers, for a total of 117 valid signatures, 2 more than the statutory minimum.

16. The Electoral Board finds, therefore, that paragraph(s) 1-8 of the Objector's Petition are sustained in part and overruled in part as more fully indicated in the results of the records examination.

17. The Electoral Board further finds that another set of objections against the Candidate's Nomination Papers were filed in case number 04-EB-WC-56, but that the objections in that case were overruled.

18. For the reasons stated above, the Electoral Board finds that the Nomination Papers of RAYMOND CASIANO are valid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of LESTER C. JEDYNAK to the Nomination Papers of RAYMOND CASIANO, candidate for election to the office of Ward Committeeman for the 31st Ward of the City of Chicago, Republican Party, are hereby OVERRULED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared VALID and the name of RAYMOND CASIANO, candidate for election to the office of Ward Committeeman for the 31st Ward of the City of Chicago, Republican Party, SHALL be printed on the official ballot for the General Primary Election to be held on March 16, 2004.

Dated: Chicago, Illinois, this 27th day of January, 2004.

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.