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

Objections of: SCOTT TUCKER	)	
	)	
To the Nomination	)	
Papers of: JOHN J. CURRY	)	
	)	No. 04-EB-WC-62
Candidate for the office of	)	
Ward Committeeman for the 32nd 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 SCOTT TUCKER ("Objector") to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of JOHN J. CURRY, candidate for election to the office of Ward Committeeman for the 32nd 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 JOHN R. ASHENDEN for further hearings and proceedings. However, the case was re-assigned to Hearing Examiner Robert Andrew in an exchange of cases due to Mr. Ashenden's recusal from this case. After Mr. Andrew became to ill to continue,

this matter was re-assigned once again, this time to Hearing Examiner Barbara Goodman.

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, SCOTT TUCKER, by his attorney; and the Candidate, JOHN J. CURRY, 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 340;

    b. The number of purportedly valid signatures appearing on the nominating petition filed by the Candidate total 467;

    c. The number of signatures deemed invalid because of objections sustained total 181;

    d. The remaining number of signatures deemed valid total 286;

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 fewer 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 32nd Ward of the City of Chicago, Republican Party.

15. At an evidentiary hearing conducted in this matter, the Candidate attempted to rehabilitate 34 signatures. The Hearing Examiner concluded that the Candidate's testimony and evidence was too general to draw a conclusion as to any particular signature and was not sufficient to restore all of the signatures in question. Therefore, the Hearing Examiner recommends that the results of the records examination should not be changed. However, by the Candidate's own admission, even if all 34 signatures could be rehabilitated, the Candidate would still be unable to meet the minimum signature requirement.

16. The Electoral Board finds, therefore, that paragraphs 2 through 9 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. For the reasons stated above, the Electoral Board finds that the Nomination Papers of JOHN J. CURRY are not valid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of SCOTT TUCKER to the Nomination Papers of JOHN J. CURRY, candidate for election to the office of Ward Committeeman for the 32nd Ward of the City of Chicago, Republican Party, are hereby SUSTAINED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared INVALID and the name of JOHN J. CURRY, candidate for election to the office of Ward Committeeman for the 32nd Ward of the City of Chicago, Republican Party, SHALL NOT be printed on the official ballot for the General Primary Election to be held on March 16, 2004.

Dated: Chicago, Illinois, this 30th 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.