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

Objections of: ADHELI GONZALEZ	)	
	)	
	)	
To the Nomination	)	No.: 24-EB-RGA-008
Papers of: LUPE CASTILLO	)	
	)	
Candidate for the nomination of the	)	
REPUBLICAN Party for the office of	)	
Representative in the General Assembly, 23rd	)	
Representative District, State of Illinois.	)	

FINDINGS AND DECISION

The duly constituted Electoral Board, consisting of the Board of the Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago, Commissioners Marisel A. Hernandez, William J. Kresse and June A. Brown, organized by law in response to a Call issued by Marisel A. Hernandez, Chair of said Electoral Board, for the purpose of hearing and passing upon objections ("Objections") of ADHELI GONZALEZ ("Objector") to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of LUPE CASTILLO, candidate for the nomination of the REPUBLICAN Party for the office of Representative in the General Assembly, 23rd Representative District in the State of Illinois ("Candidate"), at the General Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, having convened on December 18, 2023, at 9:30 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 were duly and timely filed.

2. The Electoral Board was constituted according to the laws of the State of Illinois.

3. A Call to the hearing on said Objections was duly issued by the Chair 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 or statutory service was waived and service by email was authorized.

4. A public hearing held on these Objections commenced on December 18, 2023 and was continued from time to time. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Officer Terence Flynn for further hearings and proceedings.

5. The Objector and the Candidate were directed by the Electoral Board to appear before the Hearing Officer on the date and at the time designated in the Hearing Schedule. On such date and time, the Hearing Officer called the case by calling aloud the case number, the name of the Objector and the name of the Candidate. The following persons answered and were present at such hearing: the Objector, ADHELI GONZALEZ, by Attorney, KEVIN MORPHEW and the Candidate, LUPE CASTILLO, by attorney JOHN FOGERTY.

6. The Hearing Officer ordered that an examination of the voter 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.

7. The Hearing Officer directed all parties to appear and be present, either personally and/or by their authorized representatives during this records examination.

8. 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 Board's file in this case and a copy has been provided or made available to the parties.

9. The results of the records examination indicate that:

A. The minimum number of valid signatures required by law for placement on the ballot for the office in question is 500.

B. The number of purportedly valid signatures appearing on the nominating petition filed by the Candidate total 1255.

C. The number of signatures deemed invalid because of objections sustained as a result of the records examination total 958.

D. The remaining number of signatures deemed valid as a result of the records examination total 263 which is 247 below the minimum required by law.

10. The Electoral Board finds that the number of valid signatures appearing on the Candidate's nominating petition following completion of the records examination is less than the minimum number of valid signatures required by law to be placed upon the ballot as a candidate for the nomination of the REPUBLICAN Party for the office of Representative in the General Assembly, 23rd Representative District in the State of Illinois.

11. The Hearing Officer has tendered to the Electoral Board a report and recommended decision. The Candidate stated on the record she would be withdrawing her Candidacy. However, no duly filed Withdrawal of Candidacy was received by the Electoral Board by the time it entered the final decision in this case.

12. The Electoral Board, having considered the evidence and arguments tendered by the parties and the Hearing Officer's report of recommended findings and conclusions of law, hereby adopts the Hearing Officer's report and recommended decision in part.

13. Based upon the results of the records examination, the Electoral Board finds that the Candidate's Nomination Papers contained 263 valid signatures, which is 247 signatures

below the minimum number of valid signatures required by law to be placed upon the ballot as a candidate of the REPUBLICAN Party for the office of Representative of Representative in the General Assembly, 23rd Representative District, in the State of Illinois. For these reasons, the Electoral Board finds that the Nomination Papers of LUPE CASTILLO invalid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of ADHELI GONZALEZ ADHELI GONZALEZ to the Nomination Papers of LUPE CASTILLO, candidate for the nomination of the REPUBLICAN Party for the office of Representative in the General Assembly, 23rd Representative District of the State of Illinois, are hereby SUSTAINED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared INVALID and the name of LUPE CASTILLO, candidate for the nomination of the REPUBLICAN Party for the office of Representative in the General Assembly, 23rd Representative District of the State of Illinois, SHALL NOT be printed on the official ballot for the General Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

Dated: January 5, 2024.

Marisel A. Hernandez, Chair

William J. Kresse, Commissioner

June A. Brown, Commissioner

NOTICE: Pursuant to Section 10-10.1 of the Election Code (10 ILCS 5/10-10.1) a party aggrieved by 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 5 days after service of the decision of the Electoral Board.