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

Objections of: BRIAHNA BATISTE	)	
	)	
	)	
To the Nomination	)	No.: 26-EB-RGA-008
Papers of: NAEMA ABRAHAM	)	
	)	
Candidate for the nomination of the	)	
Democratic Party for the office of	)	
Representative in the General Assembly in	)	
the 16th Representative District of the 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, June A. Brown and Laura Kotelman[1], 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 BRIAHNA BATISTE ("Objector") to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of NAEMA ABRAHAM, candidate for the Democratic Party nomination for the office of Representative in the General Assembly, 16th Representative District in the State of Illinois ("Candidate") at the General Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, having convened on November 19, 2025, 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.

[1] Commissioner Kotelman was sworn into office and joined the Board on November 26, 2025.

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 November 19, 2025 and was continued from time to time. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Officer Kevin E. Bry for further hearings and proceedings.

5. The Objector and the Candidate were directed by the Electoral Board's Call served upon them to appear before the Hearing Officer on the date and at the time designated in the Hearing Schedule. Appearances were filed by or on behalf of the following persons: the Objector, BRIAHNA BATISTE, by Attorney MICHAEL J. KASPER; and the Candidate, NAEMA ABRAHAM, by Attorney SCOTT B. ERDMAN.

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 Candidate and/or her duly authorized representative was present during the examination of the registration records or waived their right to do so. The Objector and/or her duly authorized representative was present during the examination of the registration records or waived their right to do so.

9. 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 a copy has been provided or made available to the parties.

10. 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 782;

C. The number of signatures deemed invalid because of objections sustained as a result of the records examination total 319;

D. The remaining number of signatures deemed valid as a result of the records examination total 463.

11. The Electoral Board finds that the number of valid signatures appearing on the Candidate's nominating petition following completion of the records examination was fewer than the minimum number of valid signatures required by law to be placed upon the official ballot as a candidate for the nomination of the Democratic Party for the office of Representative in the General Assembly of the 16th Representative District, State of Illinois.

12. Each party filed a motion pursuant to Rule 8 of the Board's Rules of Procedure (Rule 8 Motion).

13. The Hearing Officer conducted a hearing to allow the parties an opportunity to present evidence in support of their respective Rule 8 motions.

14. The Hearing Officer has tendered to the Electoral Board a report and recommended decision. Based upon the evidence presented, the Hearing Officer found that, after 4 signatures were rehabilitated through the Rule 8 process, Candidate's Nomination Papers contained only 467 valid signatures, which is fewer than the minimum number of valid signatures required by law to be placed upon the official ballot as a candidate for nomination of the Democratic Party for the office of Representative in the General Assembly, 16th Representative District of the State of Illinois, and that the Candidate's Nomination Papers should be found invalid.

15. 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 recommended findings and conclusions of law and incorporates them herein.

16. For the reasons stated above, the Electoral Board finds that the Candidate has an insufficient number of valid signatures on her nominating petitions and that the Nomination Papers of NAEMA ABRAHAM are, therefore, invalid.

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IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of BRIAHNA BATISTE to the Nomination Papers of NAEMA ABRAHAM, candidate for the nomination of the Democratic Party for election to the office of Representative in the General Assembly of the 16th Representative District, State of Illinois, are hereby SUSTAINED, said Nomination Papers are hereby declared INVALID, and the name of NAEMA ABRAHAM, candidate for nomination, SHALL NOT be printed on the official ballot for the General Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026.

Dated: December 30, 2025

Marisel A. Hernandez, Chair

June A. Brown, Commissioner

Laura Kotelman, 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.