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

Objections of: Jacqueline Morris	)	
	)	
	)	
To the Nomination	)	No.: 26-EB-RGA-013
Papers of: Darryl Robinson	)	
	)	
Independent candidate for the office of	)	
Representative in the General Assembly, 9th	)	
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, June A. Brown and Laura Kotelman 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 Jacqueline Morris ("Objector") to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of Darryl Robinson, candidate for the office of Representative in the General Assembly of the 9th Representative District, State of Illinois ("Candidate") at the General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, having convened on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, 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 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 Wednesday, June 10, 2026 and was continued from time to time.

5. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Officer Christopher Cohen for further hearings and proceedings.

6. 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, Jacqueline Morris, by attorneys TIFFANY NELSON-JAWORSKI, ERIC M. DOMIJANCIC, KEVIN MORPHEW and MICHAEL KASPER; and the Candidate, Darryl Robinson, *Pro se*.

7. 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.

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

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

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

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 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.

12. 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 1,910;

B. The number of purportedly valid signatures appearing on the nominating petition filed by the Candidate total 1,957;

C. The number of signatures deemed invalid because of objections sustained as a result of the records examination total 1,261;

D. The remaining number of signatures deemed valid as a result of the records examination total 696.

13. The Electoral Board finds that the number of valid signatures appearing on the Candidate's nominating petition following completion of the records examination was 1,214 fewer than the minimum number of valid signatures required by law to be placed upon the official ballot as an Independent candidate for the office of Representative in the General Assembly of the 9th Representative District, State of Illinois.

14. A motion pursuant to Rule 8 of the Electoral Board's Rules of Procedure was filed by the Candidate. However, the Candidate presented no evidence that altered the results of the records examination.

15. The Hearing Officer has tendered to the Electoral Board a report and recommended decision. Based upon the evidence presented, the Hearing Officer found that the Candidate's Nomination Papers contained only 696 valid signatures, which is fewer than the

minimum number of valid signatures required by law to be placed upon the official ballot as an Independent candidate for the office of Representative in the General Assembly of the 9th Representative District of the State of Illinois, and that the Candidate's Nomination Papers should be found invalid.

16. 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. A copy of the Hearing Officer Report and Recommendations is attached hereto and is incorporated herein as part of the decision of the Electoral Board.

17. The Candidate filed a Rule 20 request on July 14, 2026. This request was denied by the Board's General Counsel because it was untimely filed in advance of the Hearing Officer's recommendations having been served upon the parties. The Candidate filed a second Rule 20 request on July 17, 2026. The second Rule 20 request was denied because the issues presented had already been previously ruled upon by the Electoral Board, no further argument from the parties would assist the Electoral Board in rendering its decision, the Candidate did not present any additional evidence that would overcome his significant deficit of 1,214 valid signatures fewer than the statutorily required minimum, and for other reasons as stated in the Second Rule 20 Order (see attached), which is incorporated herein by this reference.

18. For the reasons stated above, the Electoral Board finds that the Candidate has an insufficient number of valid signatures on the Candidate's nominating petitions and that the Nomination Papers of Darryl Robinson are, therefore, invalid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of Jacqueline Morris to the Nomination Papers of Darryl Robinson, candidate for election to the office of Representative in the General Assembly of the 9th Representative District, State of Illinois, are hereby SUSTAINED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared INVALID and the name of Darryl Robinson SHALL NOT be printed on the official ballot for the General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

Dated: July 28, 2026

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.

**BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO
AS THE DULY CONSTITUTED ELECTORAL BOARD
FOR THE HEARING AND PASSING UPON OBJECTIONS TO
NOMINATION PAPERS OF CANDIDATES FOR THE
NOVEMBER 3, 2026, GENERAL ELECTION IN THE CITY OF CHICAGO**

Objections of Jacqueline Morris	)	
To the Nomination Papers of Darryl Robinson for Nomination as an Independent Candidate for the Office of State Representative in the General Assembly for the 9th Representative District, State of Illinois at the November 3, 2026, General Election	)	**Case 26-EB-RGA-013**

HEARING OFFICER'S RECOMMENDED DECISION

This matter came before the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners sitting as the Duly Constituted Electoral Board ("Board") on the Objector's Petition ("Objections") of Jacqueline Morris ("Objector") to the Nomination Papers of Darryl Robinson ("Candidate") for the Nomination as an Independent Candidate for the Office of State Representative in the General Assembly for the 9th Representative District, State of Illinois at the November 3, 2026 General Election. The Board appointed Attorney Christopher B. Cohen to preside as Hearing Officer for this case. The Hearing Officer finds and recommends as follows:

1. This Board is the duly constituted Electoral Board for hearing and passing on objections to Nomination Papers for the office that is the subject of these proceedings.

2. The Candidate filed Nomination Papers with the Illinois State Board of Elections, to which no objection was raised as to timeliness.

3. The Objector filed Objections to the Candidate's Nomination Papers.

4. The Board's official file contained the Nomination Papers of the Candidate and the Objections of the Objector.

5. The Objector's Petition In this matter alleged that the Candidate's Nomination Papers were insufficient for the following reasons: (Paragraph 5) some signers were not Registered voters or we're not registered at the addresses shown opposite their names; (Paragraph 6) some signers did not sign in their own proper persons and thus those signatures were not genuine; (Paragraph 7) some signers resided outside the District for which this Candidate filed; (Paragraph 8 some signers' addresses were missing or incomplete; (Paragraph 9) some signers signed more than once; (Paragraph 10) they contained fewer than 500 valid signatures.

6. On June 10, 2026, the Board's Hearing Officer began a public hearing regarding the Objections in the nature of a case management conference. This June 10, 2026, hearing and subsequent proceedings were each held at 69 W. Washington, Chicago, Illinois, Lower Level, and were each recorded for transcription by a court stenographer. Also present at this proceeding, and each subsequent proceeding, were one or more attorneys for the Objector who appeared for each of these six hearings.

7. By the conclusion of these proceedings, the Hearing Officer had conducted hearings on the following six dates: June 10, June 17, June 29, July 8, July 10, and July 13. All hearings were scheduled for and held at 69 W. Washington, lower level, Chicago. The Candidate appeared for five hearings but did not appear on July 29. Present at these hearings were Clerks from the Board's staff who marked exhibits and maintained the official file for this matter.

8. At the June 10, 2026, hearing, the Objector appeared not personally but by attorneys Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski and Eric Domijancic. The Candidate appeared personally, without legal counsel; that is, *pro se*. The Board's official file contained Appearances, Non-Disclosure Agreements for each party, and a Service Waiver filed by the Objector.

9. The Candidate objected to service on the Candidate and objected to personal jurisdiction over the Candidate. After presenting his arguments and reasoning orally, the Objector's attorney presented his oral argument that the Candidate had actual notice of this June 10, 2026, hearing and was subject to the jurisdiction of this hearing because the Candidate was appearing and participating in person at the hearing and by doing so had submitted himself to its jurisdiction. At this point in the hearing and at the Hearing Officer's request, John Powell of the Electoral Board's staff handed the Candidate a copy of the Objector's Petition previously filed by the Objector as well as the Board's Call and a USPS tracking receipt from the Board's file of delivery to the front door or porch on June 6, 2026, at 4:43 pm.

10. After receiving these documents, the Candidate then contended that the Objector's Petition had not been filed by the deadline. The Hearing Officer inspected the first page and took official notice of the filing date and time stamped on the face of the Objector's Petition. It indicated that the Objections had been filed with the ILSBE at 1:01 pm on June 2, 2026. The Hearing Officer took official notice that 1:01 pm on June 2, 2026, was before the filing deadline and noted that no credible or competent evidence was presented that the Objector's Petition had been untimely filed.

11. The Hearing Officer made available to each party a copy of the Rules of Procedure the Board had adopted at its June 9, 2026, meeting. Notwithstanding Rule 17, he noted that Board offices would be open weekdays from 9 AM to 5 PM and closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

12. The Hearing Officer specifically indicated that documents were to be filed in PDF form, served via email on the opposing party, on the Hearing Officer at cohenlaw@umich.edu, and on the Board at ElectoralBoard@ChicagoElections.gov as indicated in Paragraph 16 of the Board's Rules, with no service by fax.

13. The Hearing Officer also notified the parties that schedules of hearings to be conducted by hearing officers, with the date, time, and location of upcoming hearings, will be posted daily at the Board's Offices on the 6th and 8th Floors and on the Board's website at www.chicagoelections.gov under "Petition Filing/Objection Information."

14. During the June 10, 2026, case management conference, the Candidate filed a preliminary written motion, which the Hearing Officer deemed to be in the nature of a Motion to Strike and Dismiss (MTSD). The Candidate repeated his oral objection to jurisdiction, stating that he had not been served with the Objector's Petition or the Board's Call.

15. After considering the oral arguments and reasoning of each party, the Hearing Officer issued a tentative oral ruling that the Candidate had actual notice of the hearing, had submitted himself to jurisdiction by appearing and participating, had been served with the Objector's Petition and the Board's call during the hearing on the record, and that the Board had adequate jurisdiction over each party. The Hearing Officer indicated that he would schedule a hearing on the Candidate's written MTSD and on the Candidate's oral objection to jurisdiction in case either or both parties cared to file written pleadings.

16. Consequently, the Hearing Officer set a briefing schedule with the following deadlines for both matters – 5 pm on June 11, 2026, for the Candidate's written motion or motions; 5 pm on June 12, 2026, for the Objector's Response to the Candidate's two Motions; and 5 pm on June 15, 2026, for the Candidate's Reply or Replies, if any. Each party was reminded to provide and to be able to receive service by email.

17. The Hearing Officer scheduled a hearing and oral argument for the Motions and responsive pleadings for 11 am, June 17, 2026. Each party attending the June 10, 2026, hearing received oral notice on the record of the date, time, and location of the upcoming hearing.

18. At the June 10, 2026, hearing, the Hearing Officer signed an order directing that a Records Examination be conducted by Board staff at a time to be determined (TBD) after June 17, 2026. The hearing was then continued to 1 pm on June 17, 2026.

19. On June 17, 2026, at the reconvened hearing, the Candidate appeared *pro se,* and the Objector appeared by attorney Kevin Morphew. The Hearing Officer considered the Candidate's MTSD and the oral arguments of the parties and dismissed the MTSD. Because the Board's Rule 6 Records Exam had not yet been scheduled, the Hearing Officer continued these proceedings to June 29, 2026, at noon for the purpose of reviewing the Final Records Examination Results.

20. On June 23, 2026, at 9:51 PM, the Candidate filed a request for subpoenas. On June 24, Attorney Kasper filed a response for the Objector. On June 26, 2026, the Hearing Officer announced his recommendation, which he had sent to the Board's General Counsel, to the Board and to the parties. That recommendation stated that "The Board's Rule 19 requires the party requesting a subpoena to submit that request in writing to the Hearing Officer by 5 pm on the fifth business day after the first hearing before the Hearing Officer." The Hearing Officer's recommendation further stated that the first

hearing was held on Wednesday, June 10, 2026. The fifth business day after June 10, 2026, was Wednesday, June 17, 2026. Because this subpoena request was filed on June 23, 2026, more than 5 business days after the initial hearing, the Hearing Officer recommended that the Board deny it as untimely."

21. In response to a June 29, 2026, request from the Objector, the Hearing Officer issued a June 29 directive at 10:14 am that future communication to Objector Morris by Candidate Robinson regarding 26-EB-RGA-013 be directed not to the Objector personally but to attorneys Kasper and Morphew, who represent the Objector in this matter.

22. Subsequently, on June 29, 2026, at the reconvened hearing, the Objector appeared by attorney Kevin Morphew. The Candidate did not appear at noon. The Hearing Officer waited until 12:30 to begin the hearing, but the Candidate did not appear. Because the Board's Rule 6 Records Exam results had not yet been reviewed by the Board's Handwriting Expert, the Hearing Officer set the next hearing for July 8, 2026, at 11:30 am to receive the results of the Records Exam.

23. On July 6, 2026. The Board issued the Final Petition Summary Report, including the results of the Handwriting Expert. It stated that the Candidate's Nomination Papers contained 696 valid signatures – 1214 fewer than the 1910 minimum required for Independent Candidates in the 9th Representative District, as indicated in the Board's 2026 Election Calendar.

24. On July 7, 2026, the Candidate filed a document entitled "Rule 8 Evidentiary Hearing Line-by-Line Motion Template."

25. On July 8, 2026, at the reconvened status hearing, the Candidate appeared *pro se.* The Objector appeared by attorney Kevin Morphew. The Hearing Officer confirmed that the Final Records Exam Report had been completed on July 6, 2026. The Hearing Officer found that the Candidate had filed a timely Rule 8 motion for an Evidentiary Hearing with attachments. The Objector did not file a Rule 8 motion.

26. The Hearing Officer took official notice that these are expedited hearings pursuant to Board Rule 4. It states that these are expedited proceedings and that they must be conducted expeditiously. Consequently, he set the Evidentiary Hearing for 10 am on July 10 and ordered that the Candidate file with the Objector, the Board, and the Hearing Officer no later than 5 pm on July 9, a copy of evidence, including documents, affidavits, names for oral testimony, and reports from a forensic handwriting expert, if any, that the Candidate intended to use during the evidentiary hearing.

27. On July 9, 2026, the Candidate filed documents that were discussed at the next day's Evidentiary Hearing.

28. On July 10, 2026, at the Rule 8 Evidentiary Hearing, the Candidate appeared *pro se.* The Objector appeared by attorney Kevin Morphew. The Board's file contained the Candidate's filing from the previous day. It was entitled "Before the State Officers Electoral Board. Respondent's Statement of Issues for Rule 9 Evidentiary Hearing." The

Objector objected to the documents the Candidate had filed as irrelevant to the issues for this hearing.

29. The Board's file also contained an email from one of the Objector's attorneys, Mr. Kasper. At 5:16 pm on July 9, 2026, Mr. Kasper responded that: "The attachments to the Candidate's filing are links to google drives to which we cannot access. Can all of the materials be provided in a pdf format as set for (sic) the in the Board's Rules of Procedure?"

30. The Board's file also contained an email showing a filing date and time from the Candidate at 5:44 pm, July 9, 2026. It was directed to Mr. Kasper with copies to the Board and the Hearing Officer. The Candidate's email stated in part that:

"Thank you for bringing this to my attention. After reviewing the issue, I moved all of the exhibit files out of Google Drive and confirmed that they are saved as PDF documents. However, it appears that because of the overall size of several of the files, Gmail is automatically converting them into Google Drive links rather than transmitting them as standard PDF attachments.

"I am currently working to resolve this issue by reducing the file sizes and/or dividing the exhibits into multiple emails so that each exhibit can be transmitted as a PDF attachment in compliance with the Board's Rules of Procedure."

31. One of the Candidate's emails dated July 9, 2026, at 5:44 pm from mailer-daemon@googlemail.com contained this language:

"Message too large. Your message couldn't be delivered to mjkasper60@mac.com because it exceeds the size limit. Try reducing the Message size and resending."

32. The Board's file also contained an additional email from the Candidate to Mr. Kasper dated July 9, 2026, at 6:00 PM. It added language from the Candidate, including that: "To correct this issue, I have resent the affected exhibits as separate emails with each exhibit attached directly as a PDF to ensure they are accessible and comply with the Board's request."

33. At the July 10, 2026, Evidentiary Hearing, the parties discussed the Candidate's submissions, some of which arrived after the 5 pm deadline on July 9 and were not in PDF format as required by Board Rule 16. The parties had discussed this specific PDF rule during the June 10, 2026, hearing in respect of the Candidate's filing of this Motion to Strike and Dismiss at that time because it was not in PDF format. Rule 16 (b) states in part that "Documents shall be filed with the Electoral Board via PDF attachment to an email sent to electoralboard@chicagoelections.GOV... provided: all documents are received by the time and date required by these Rules or by a hearing officer."

34. At the July 10, 2026, Evidentiary Hearing, the Hearing Officer noted that the Records Exam showed the Candidate to be 1214 signatures below the required 1910. Pursuant to Rule 8(e), the Hearing Officer assigned the Candidate the burden of going forward first and presenting evidence as to why the findings made by the record examiners

should be reversed. He noted that if the Candidate were to be successful in rehabilitating enough signatures so that his Nomination Papers had more than the 1910 signatures required, then the burden of proof would shift back to the Objector.

35. In the Candidate's filings, the Hearing Officer found no affidavits from voters, voter records, a list of names of witnesses to present oral testimony, reports from a forensic handwriting expert, or documentary evidence relevant to the Rule 8 Evidentiary Hearing or relevant to the Candidate's efforts to rehabilitate signatures that were found to be invalid in the Final Records Exam Report. The Hearing Officer found the filings by the Candidate were not relevant to an Evidentiary Hearing. The Hearing Officer indicated that there would be no wholesale redo of the Records Exam and that new evidence would be required to rebut the Records Exam findings.

36. At the July 10, 2026, Evidentiary Hearing, the Candidate requested a continuance to submit evidence. The Hearing officer reviewed Board Rule 4 (c), which states that continuances are to be granted only upon a showing of good cause and where the interests of justice require it. Over the objections of Attorney Morphew for the Objector, the Hearing Officer ordered a continuance of the Evidentiary Hearing to 1 pm on July 13, 2026, and set a 5 pm deadline on July 11, 2026, for the Candidate to provide evidence in PDF format to the Board, the Objector and the Hearing Officer.

37. On July 11, 2026, at 2:17 pm, before the 5 pm deadline set by the Hearing Officer at the previously convened June 10, 2026, Rule 8 Evidentiary Hearing, the Candidate filed the following four items with the Board, the Objector's attorneys and the Hearing Officer:

- An email entitled "Resubmission of Exhibits, Renewed Motion for Limited Continuance, and Request for Confirmation of Receipt."
- A PDF file entitled "Respondent's renewed motion for a limited continuance to obtain official Records and complete the evidentiary record." This was addressed to the State Officers Electoral Board, State of Illinois.
- A PDF file entitled "Exhibit B" and "Respondent's statement of issues for a Rule 9 Evidence Hearing." This document was addressed to the State Officers Electoral Board.
- An eml file entitled "Exhibit M – Timeline of Respondent's Post-Hearing Efforts." Other than the title and the list of recipients, the file was empty, that is, it had no visible content and was blank.

38. None of the four items filed included affidavits from voters, voter records, a list of names of witnesses to present oral testimony, reports from a forensic handwriting expert, or documentary evidence relevant to the Rule 8 Evidentiary Hearing or relevant to the Candidate's efforts to rehabilitate signatures that were found to be invalid in the Final Records Exam Report.

39. On July 13, 2026, at the reconvened Evidentiary Hearing, the Candidate discussed and explained his July 11 filings. The Objector argued that the Candidate's filings of July 9 and July 11 were irrelevant to the facts at issue in the Evidentiary Hearing. The Hearing Officer reviewed the Candidate's filings. He found no affidavits from voters, voter records, lists of names of witnesses to present oral testimony, reports from a forensic

handwriting expert, or documentary evidence relevant to the Rule 8 Evidentiary Hearing or relevant to the Candidate's efforts to rehabilitate signatures that were found to be invalid in the Final Records Exam Report.

40. The Hearing Officer took official notice of Board Rule 1(b)(v), which authorizes the Hearing Officer to accept offers of proof. He offered the Candidate the opportunity to make an offer of proof.

41. After the Candidate's presentation was complete, the Hearing Officer announced that he would recommend that the Board sustain the Objector's Objections to the Candidate's Nomination Papers.

ANALYSIS

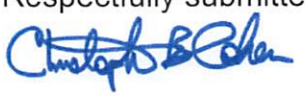
42. On July 13, 2026, the Hearing Officer accepted the result in the Board's Petition Summary Report and found that the Candidate's Nomination Papers contained 1214 fewer signatures than the 1910 minimum listed in the Board's 2026 Election Calendar for Independent candidates for the 9th Representative District. At this final hearing, the Hearing Officer confirmed that the Board's exhibits had been marked and admitted into evidence. With no other issues to be decided, these proceedings were concluded. No new hearing date was set.

43. On July 13, 2026, at the conclusion of that proceeding, this Hearing Officer found that the Candidate had fewer than the required minimum of 1910 valid signatures and recommended that the Objector's Petition in 26-EB-RGA-013 be sustained.

RECOMMENDATION

In light of the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, it is this Hearing Officer's recommendation to the Board that the Candidate's Nomination Papers be deemed not valid in law and in fact and that the name of the Candidate, Darryl Robinson, not appear on the ballot for the Office of State Representative in the General Assembly of the 9th Representative District, State of Illinois at the November 3, 2026, General Election.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher B. Cohen
Hearing Officer
July 16, 2026

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

Objections of: **JACQUELINE MORRIS**	)	
	)	
To the Nomination	)	No.: **26-EB-RGA-013**
Papers of: **DARRYL ROBINSON**	)	
	)	
Candidate for the office of representative in the General Assembly, 9th Representative District, Illinois.	)	

SECOND RULE 20 ORDER

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Candidate's second Rule 20 Motion, filed the morning of July 17, 2027 (hereafter, the "Motion"), is hereby **DENIED** for the reasons stated below.

Pursuant to Rule 20 of the Electoral Board's Rules of Procedure, the purpose of a Rule 20 hearing is "to have the Electoral Board review the hearing officer's recommendations and hear additional argument from the parties. *Such motion may be granted in the discretion of the Electoral Board or the Electoral Board's Attorney.*" (R. 20(a), emphasis added.) Under Rule 23, the Electoral Board "designates the Board of Election Commissioners' general counsel to serve as its attorney, who shall be and hereby is authorized to ... issue orders on Rule 20 requests for review by the Electoral Board." (R. 23.) The Candidate's Motion and the record of proceedings before the hearing officer have been reviewed by, and this present Order is being issued by, the Electoral Board's Attorney in accordance with the above grants of authority.

In deciding whether to grant or deny a Rule 20 motion, "the Electoral Board or its Attorney may consider whether the issues presented have been previously ruled upon by the Electoral Board or whether further argument or evidence from the parties would assist the Electoral Board in rendering its decision." (R. 20(a).) Furthermore, Rule 20 hearings "shall not be considered a trial *de novo* and the parties will, in general, be bound by the record from the proceedings before the hearing officer." (R. 20(d).)

This case involves a statutory signature requirement of no fewer than 1,910 valid signatures. (10 ILCS 5/10-3.)[1] The Candidate's Nomination Papers include a grand total of only 1,957 signatures, which is just 47 signatures more than required. Upon review of the record and the 477 signature petition sheets contained in the Candidate's Nomination Papers, that total number of signatures filed appears to be accurate and undisputed. Thus, the Candidate filed only 2.4% more signatures than required. Following completion of the standard Rule 6 records exam conducted in this case, and after routine review by the Electoral Board's certified handwriting expert, the Petition Summary Report discussed in Candidate's Motion shows that the Candidate was left with 1,214 signatures *fewer than* the statutory requirement.

In 2015, the Illinois Supreme Court reaffirmed that candidate signature requirements set forth in the Illinois Election Code must be strictly enforced by the various electoral boards within the state. *Jackson-Hicks v. East St. Louis Municipal Officers Electoral Bd.*, 2015 IL 118929 ¶ 42. Therefore, despite the Candidate's apparent diligent efforts in the case at hand, as described in his Rule 20 Motion and other filings contained within the record, this Electoral Board is still mandated by law to strictly enforce the minimum requirement of 1,910 signatures that is applicable to independent candidates seeking the office of representative in the General Assembly for the 9th Representative District.

In his Motion, the Candidate has requested, *inter alia,* that the Electoral Board "Conduct an independent review of the Hearing Officer's Recommended Findings and Recommendation pursuant to Rule 20 and exercise its independent judgment in rendering the Board's final

[1] *See also,* pp. 4-5 of the 2026 Election Calendar adopted by the Board of Election Commissioners on 7/8/2025, rev. 7/22/2025, published online here: https://cboeprod.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/prod/2025-07/2026%20Chicago%20Election%20Calendar%20rev2.pdf. *Accord with* pp. 33-34 of the 2026 Candidate's Guide issued by the Illinois St. Bd. of Elections, amended 2/17/2026, published online here: https://elections.il.gov/Main/Publications.aspx.

administrative decision." (Mot. p. 9.) The Candidate also requested that "the Board evaluate the complete administrative record, resolve the preserved issues presented herein, and enter such final decision as the Board determines is supported by the evidence, the Illinois Election Code, and the Rules of Procedure of the State [sic] Officers Electoral Board." (Mot. pp. 10-11.) On behalf of the (Chicago) Electoral Board, and as authorized by its Rules 20 and 23, the Electoral Board Attorney issuing this Order has undertaken exactly the kind of detailed and independent review and evaluation that the Candidate has requested.

As shown above, in deciding whether to grant a Rule 20 motion, "the Electoral Board or its Attorney may consider whether the issues presented have been previously ruled upon by the Electoral Board." (R. 20(a).) The Electoral Board Attorney hereby finds that the relevant and dispositive issues presented in this case are standard and routine petition-based objections, which challenged the qualifications of some of the Candidate's petition signers and the validity of their signatures. The Attorney also finds that the Electoral Board has previously ruled upon these issues in thousands of cases over several decades, and its prior decisions on these issues have been affirmed numerous times by courts of review. The Attorney further finds that the Rule 19 subpoena requests and records requests in this matter have also been ruled upon many times before. Thus, after a thorough review of the administrative record of this case, the Electoral Board Attorney finds no novel nor unusual issues presented.

As also shown above, in deciding whether to grant a Rule 20 motion, the Electoral Board or its Attorney may consider "whether further argument or evidence from the parties would assist the Electoral Board in rendering its decision." (R. 20(a).) Following a thorough review of the administrative record, the Electoral Board's Attorney finds that the evidence submitted in this case, including the evidence generated during the Electoral Board's standard and routine Rule 6 records

examination, has fulfilled the Objector's burden of proof, and that all qualified evidence submitted by the Candidate was duly considered by the hearing officer. The Attorney finds that the preponderance of the evidence in the record proves that the Candidate's Nomination Papers contain significantly fewer valid signatures than required by the Election Code. The Attorney further finds that no additional argument or evidence submitted along with the Candidate's Rule 20 Motion is sufficient to overcome the Candidate's proven deficit of 1,214 valid petition signatures *fewer than* the statutorily required minimum.

For the above reasons, the Candidate's Rule 20 Motion fails to present any argument, evidence, or other claim that could reasonably be expected to cause the Electoral Board to reject the recommended findings of fact and decisions entered in this matter by its hearing officer, and the Motion must therefore be denied.

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED pursuant to Rule 20(a) that the Candidate's second Rule 20 Motion is DENIED for the reasons stated herein, and the Electoral Board's Rule 23 Attorney shall be advising the Electoral Board to adopt the hearing officer's recommended findings of fact and decisions in this matter, and the Electoral Board shall be entering its Final Decision accordingly at its next duly noticed public meeting.

Dated: July 17, 2026

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF CHICAGO, sitting *ex officio* as the ELECTORAL BOARD

By: */s/ Adam W. Lasker*
General Counsel

I, Mario Garcia, hereby certify that I notified the following individuals
(Name of Person Giving Notice)
by telephone and/or email that the above Second Rule 20 Order has been entered in this case and I served a copy of said Order upon such individuals by emailing a full and complete copy to them at the addresses listed below on the date and time indicated below:

Name	Candidate, Objector(s) or their Attorney(s)	Email Address	Date	Time
Kevin Morphew Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski Eric Domijancic Michael Kasper	Objectors' attorneys	kmorphew@sorlinglaw.com jaworski@dlglawgroup.com domijancic@dlglawgroup.com mjkasper60@mac.com	7/17	3:45P
Darryl Robinson	Candidate	Darryltrobinson3@gmail.com	7/17	3:45P

Date: 07-17-2026

Mario Garcia
(Signature of Person Giving Notice)