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

Objections of: Anastasia M. Toland	)	
	)	
	)	
To the Nomination	)	No.: 26-EB-RGA-014
Papers of: Abdallah J. Alkodah	)	
	)	
Candidate of the office of Representative in	)	
the General Assembly, 13th 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 Anastasia M. Toland ("Objector") to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of Abdallah J Alkodah, candidate for the office of Representative in the General Assembly of the 13th 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 Joseph Morris 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, Anastasia M. Toland, by Attorney MICHAEL J KASPER; and the Candidate, Abdallah J Alkodah, *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. The Objector and/or the Objector's duly authorized representative were present during the examination of the registration records or waived their right to do so.

10. 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.

11. 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 2,799;

B. The number of purportedly valid signatures appearing on the face of the nominating petition filed by the Candidate total 4,095;

C. The number of signatures deemed invalid because of objections sustained as a result of the records examination total 1,935;

D. The remaining number of signatures deemed valid as a result of the records examination total 2,160.

12. 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 office of Representative in the General Assembly of the 13th Representative District, State of Illinois.

13. As requested by the Candidate pursuant to Rule 8, the Hearing Officer conducted a hearing to allow the Candidate an opportunity to present evidence in support of his Rule 8 motion objecting to the Board's clerk's findings during the records examination. During that hearing, the Candidate proffered one (1) affidavit to rehabilitate a petition signature, but the Hearing Officer found the affidavit signatures to be insufficiently similar to the registration signature to rehabilitate the corresponding petition signature.

14. Pursuant to Electoral Board Rule 23, the Final Report and Recommended Decision was submitted by the Electoral Board's attorney, due to the unavailability of the assigned Hearing Officer. The Board Attorney had reviewed the case file in detail and thereby provided his recommended findings of fact and conclusions of law. The Board Attorney found that the Candidate's Nomination Papers contained only 2,160 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 the office of Representative in the General Assembly of the 13th 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 Electoral Board Attorney's report of recommended findings and conclusions of law, hereby adopts the Electoral Board Attorney'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 the Candidate's nominating petitions and that the Nomination Papers of Abdallah J Alkodah are, therefore, invalid.

[Continued on next page.]

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of Anastasia M. Toland to the Nomination Papers of Abdallah J. Alkodah, candidate for election to the office of Representative in the General Assembly of the 13th Representative District, State of Illinois, are hereby SUSTAINED, said Nomination Papers are hereby declared INVALID, and the name of Abdallah J Alkodah SHALL NOT be printed on the official ballot for the General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

Dated: August 11, 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 FOR THE CITY OF CHICAGO AS A DULY CONSTITUTED ELECTORAL BOARD

Objections of: **ANASTASIA M. TOLAND**	)	
	)	
To the Nomination	)	No.: **26-EB-RGA-014**
Papers of: **ABDALLAH J. ALKODAH**	)	
	)	
Candidate for the office of representative in the General Assembly, 13th Representative District, Illinois.	)	

FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDED DECISION

An Objector's Petition was timely filed in this matter on June 2, 2026, by Anastasia M. Toland (the "Objector"). The Electoral Board called the case on June 9, 2026, and assigned the matter to Hearing Officer Joseph Morris. Throughout the course of the proceedings, the Objector was represented by attorneys Michael Kasper and Kevin Morphew. The Candidate, Abdallah J. Alkodah (the "Candidate"), represented himself *pro se*.

Pursuant to Electoral Board Rule 23, this Final Report and Recommended Decision is being submitted by the Electoral Board's attorney, due to the unavailability of the assigned Hearing Officer. The Board Attorney has reviewed the case file in detail and thereby provides the following recommended findings of fact and conclusions of law.

The Objector's Petition alleged that the Candidate's Nomination Papers lacked sufficient valid signatures, and specific, line-by-line objections were set forth in the "Appendix-Recapitulation" attached to and incorporated therein. The Hearing Officer found no legal deficiencies in the Objector's Petition and, therefore, no reason to grant the Candidate's motion to strike or dismiss the objections. Under routine procedures, the Candidate's Nomination Papers were sent to the Electoral Board staff for a Rule 6 Records Examination in accordance with the objections lodged in the Objector's Petition, and the final results of that exam were as follows:

A. Total valid signatures required[1] = 2,799

B. Total signatures filed = 4,095

C. Total objections lodged and ruled upon = 7,830

D. Total signatures invalidated due to sustained objections = 1,935

E. Total signatures validated due to overruled objections = 1,038

F. **Total valid signatures = 2,160**

The Candidate filed a Rule 8 motion seeking review of the Records Exam results, and the Hearing Officer conducted a Rule 8 evidentiary hearing. However, the single affidavit presented by the Candidate to rehabilitate a signature was insufficient to overcome the exam findings. Therefore, the results of the Records Examination shall stand. The Electoral Board therefore should find that, based upon the above Records Exam results, the Candidate's Nomination Papers contain 639 signatures *fewer than* the legally required minimum.

WHEREFORE, it is recommended that the Electoral Board enter a Final Decision finding that the Candidate's Nomination Papers contain 639 signatures *fewer than* the legally required minimum, that the Nomination Papers are legally invalid, and that the name Abdallah J. Alkodah is *not* qualified to be printed upon the ballot for the 2026 General Election.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam W. Lasker
Electoral Board Rule 23 Attorney

[1] The total signatures required for independent candidates in the 13th Representative District pursuant to 10 ILCS 5/10-3 is 2,799. The Objector's Petition erroneously stated that the minimum requirement was 2,434, which is lower than the statutory requirement. While the Electoral Board must enforce the statutory requirement, regardless of which number was contained in the Objector's Petition, it is noted that the 2,160 valid signatures in the Candidate's Nomination Papers fail to fulfill both stated requirements.