

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

Objections of: Zerlina A. Smith)
)
)
 To the Nomination) No.: 16-EB-RGA-12
 Papers of: Steve Golston)
)
 Candidate for the nomination of the)
 Democratic Party for the office of)
 Representative in the General Assembly of the)
 8th Representative District, State of Illinois)

FINDINGS AND DECISION

The duly constituted Electoral Board, consisting of Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago Commissioners Marisel A. Hernandez, William J. Kresse and Jonathan T. Swain, organized by law in response to a Call issued by Marisel A. Hernandez, Chairman of said Electoral Board, for the purpose of hearing and passing upon objections (“Objections”) of Zerlina A. Smith (“Objector”) to the nomination papers (“Nomination Papers”) of Steve Golston, candidate for the nomination of the Democratic Party for the office of Representative in the General Assembly of the 8th Representative District in the State of Illinois (“Candidate”) at the General Primary Election to be held on March 15, 2016, having convened on December 14, 2015 at 9:00 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 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 December 14, 2015 and was continued from time to time.
5. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Officer Frank Tedesso for further hearings and proceedings.
6. 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. The following persons, among others, were present at such hearing: the Objector, Zerlina A. Smith, by his attorney, Michael J. Kasper; and the Candidate, Steve Golston, by his attorney, Pericles Abbasi.
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 his duly authorized representative was present during the examination of the registration records.
10. The Objector and/or her duly authorized representative 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 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 500;

B. The number of purportedly valid signatures appearing on the nominating petition filed by the Candidate total 1,111;

C. The number of signatures deemed invalid because of objections sustained as a result of the records examination total 645;

D. The remaining number of signatures deemed valid as a result of the records examination total 466.

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 less 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 8th Representative District of the State of Illinois.

14. 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. Following the hearing, the Hearing Officer found that the Candidate's Nomination Papers contained only 472 valid signatures.

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

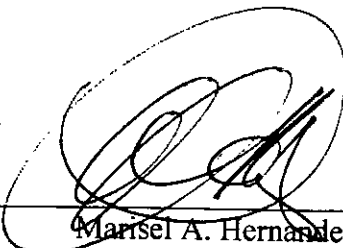
Candidate's Nomination Papers contained only 472 valid signatures, which is less than the minimum number of valid signatures required by law to be placed upon the official ballot as a candidate for nomination of the Democratic Party for the office of Representative in the General Assembly for the 8th 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 Examiner's Report and Recommended Decision is attached hereto and is incorporated herein as part of the decision of the Electoral Board.

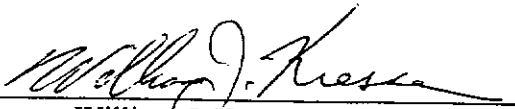
17. For the reasons stated above, the Electoral Board finds that the Candidate has an insufficient number of valid signatures on his nominating petitions and that the Nomination Papers of Steve Golston are, therefore, invalid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of Zerlina A. Smith to the Nomination Papers of Steve Golston, candidate for the nomination of the Democratic Party for election to the office of Representative in the General Assembly of the 8th Representative District of the State of Illinois are hereby SUSTAINED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared INVALID and the name of Steve Golston, candidate for nomination of the Democratic Party for the office of Representative in the General Assembly for the 8th Representative District of the State of Illinois, SHALL NOT be printed on the official ballot for the General Primary Election to be held on March 15, 2016.

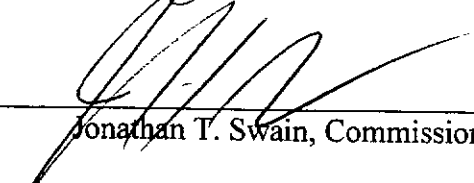
Dated: Chicago, Illinois, on January 12, 2016.



Marisel A. Hernandez, Chairman



William J. Kresse, Commissioner



Jonathan T. Swain, 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 5 days after service of the decision of the Electoral Board.

BEFORE THE DULY CONSTITUTED ELECTORAL BOARD FOR THE HEARING AND PASSING UPON NOMINATION OBJECTIONS TO NOMINATION PAPERS OF CANDIDATES FOR THE ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE 8TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

ZERLINA A. SMITH,)	
Petitioner/Objector,)	
)	
V.)	Case No. 16-EB-RGA-12
)	
STEVE GOLSTON,)	
Respondent/Candidate)	

HEARING OFFICER'S RECOMMENDED DECISION

1. The Respondent – Candidate, STEVE GOLSTON, filed Nomination Papers for nomination to the Office of Representative in the General Assembly for the 8th Representative District of the State of Illinois, Democratic Party, to be voted upon at the March 15, 2016 General Primary Election.

2. That the Petitioner– Objector, ZERLINA SMITH, filed an Objector's Petition objecting to the Nomination Papers of the Candidate.

3. On December 14, 2015, this matter appeared on the Board's Initial Trial Call. Petitioner-Objector appeared through her attorney, Michael Kasper and, and Respondent-Candidate appeared through his attorney Pericles Abbasi. The following Board Documents were entered into evidence by the Hearing Officer: "Board Group Exhibit A" consisting of the Candidate's Nomination Papers; "Board Group Exhibit B" consisting of the Objector's Petition and attachments; "Board Group Exhibit C" consisting of a copy of the call and proof of service of the call; and "Board Group Exhibit D" consisting of the parties' appearances and executed non-disclosure agreements. Both parties indicated they did not intend to file any pre-trial motions and requested the Hearing Officer order a Rule 6 Records Examination. The Hearing

Officer signed a records examination directive and the matter was continued until December 22, 2015 for status on the records examination.

4. On December 24, 2015, a Records Examination was completed with the following results:

*Number of Signatures on Petition:	1111
*Total Objections:	736
*Number of Objections Overruled:	91
*Number of Objections Sustained:	645
*Valid Signatures:	466
*Minimum Signature Requirement:	500

A copy of the Petition Summary Sheet is attached hereto as Hearing Officer's Exhibit 1.

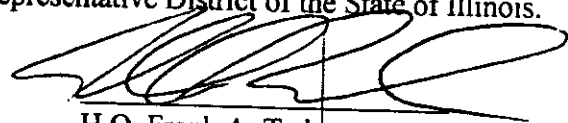
5. On January 5, 2016, the matter proceeded to an evidentiary hearing on the Candidate's Rule 8 Motion. Respondent-Candidate sought reversal of the Clerk's finding that the signature was not genuine for the signatures contained on the following petition sheet and line numbers. The Candidate presented affidavits in support of reversal of the Clerk's findings. The Hearing Officer received the affidavits into evidence and heard argument from the parties in regard to the signatures contained on the following sheet and line numbers. The Hearing Officer also reviewed the original petition sheets, the affidavits, and the signature contained in the Board's records and makes the following recommended decision regarding the objections to the signatures for the following sheet and line numbers:

CANDIDATES	SHEET / LINE	HEARING OFFICER'S RULLING
1.	2/2	Objection Sustained
2.	2/4	Not Preserved – Objection Sustained
3.	2/11	Objection Sustained
4.	2/14	Objection sustained
5.	2/18	Objection sustained
6.	3/13	Objection Sustained
7.	4/1	Objection Sustained
8.	4/2	Objection Sustained
9.	4/11	Objection Sustained
10.	5/4	Objection Sustained
11.	5/7	Objection Sustained
12.	6/9	Objection Sustained
13.	6/12	Objection Overruled
14.	6/19	Objection Sustained
15.	9/8	Objection Sustained
16.	9/17	Objection Sustained
17.	10/5	Objection Sustained
18.	11/10	Objection Sustained – No Objection Made At Records Exam.
19.	13/14	Objection Overruled
20.	14/12	Objection Sustained
21.	14/18	Objection Sustained
22.	16/11	Objection Sustained Not On Rule 8 Motion
23.	17/8	Objection Sustained
24.	17/14	Objection Sustained
25.	18/11	Objection Sustained
26.	18/14	Objection Sustained
27.	18/17	Objection Sustained
28.	21/4	Objection Sustained
29.	21/6	Objection Sustained
30.	21/7	Objection Sustained
31.	21/8	Objection Sustained
32.	21/15	Objection Sustained
33.	21/16	Objection Sustained
34.	21/17	Objection Sustained
35.	21/18	Objection Sustained
36.	22/20	Objection Sustained
37.	23/11	Objection Sustained
38.	23/18	Objection Sustained
39.	26/7	Objection Sustained
40.	26/14	Objection Sustained
41.	27/11	Objection Sustained
42.	27/17	Objection Sustained
43.	28/3	Objection Sustained
44.	28/4	Objection Sustained

45.	29/4	Objection Sustained
46.	30/15	Objection Sustained
47.	33/18	Objection Sustained
48.	36/20	Objection Sustained
49.	37/1	Objection Sustained
50.	37/2	Objection Sustained
51.	37/6	Objection Sustained
52.	41/12	Objection Overruled
53.	42/1	Objection Sustained
54.	42/3	Objection Sustained
55.	43/1	Objection Overruled
56.	43/3	Objection Overruled
57.	43/7	Objection Sustained
58.	43/17	Objection Sustained
59.	46/6	Objection Sustained
60.	46/18	Objection Sustained
61.	48/17	Objection Sustained
62.	49/8	Objection Sustained
63.	49/17	Objection Sustained
64.	50/8	Objection Sustained
65.	51/8	Objection Sustained
66.	51/16	Objection Sustained
67.	52/9	Objection Sustained
68.	55/3	Objection Sustained
69.	56/2	Objection Sustained
70.	57/12	Objection Overruled
71.	57/13	Objection Sustained
72.	58/12	Objection Sustained
73.	60/4	Objection Sustained
74.	60/5	Objection Sustained
75.	60/6	Objection Sustained

At the conclusion of the Candidate's presentation of evidence, the Candidate has 472 valid signatures which is below the 500 minimum signature requirement. It is the Hearing Officer's recommended decision that the Objector's Petition be sustained and that the Candidate, Steve Golsten, not appear on the March 15, 2016 General Primary Election as a Candidate for Representative in the General Assembly for the 8th Representative District of the State of Illinois.

January 7, 2016



H.O. Frank A. Tedesso