

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

Objections of: GEORGE BROWN)
)
)
To the Nomination) No.: 19-EB-ALD-011
Papers of: PAUL COLLINS)
)
Candidate for the office of)
Alderman of the 9th Ward of the City of)
Chicago)
)

FINDINGS AND DECISION

The duly constituted Electoral Board, consisting of the 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, Chair of said Electoral Board, for the purpose of hearing and passing upon objections (“Objections”) of GEORGE BROWN (“Objector”) to the nomination papers (“Nomination Papers”) of PAUL COLLINS, candidate for the office of Alderman of the 9th Ward of the City of Chicago (“Candidate”) at the General Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, February 26, 2019, having convened on Monday, December 10, 2018, at 8:30 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 legally constituted under 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.

4. A public hearing was held on these Objections commencing on Monday, December 10, 2018 and was continued from time to time.

5. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Officer Maria Stavrakos 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 Call. The following persons, among others, were present at or filed appearances during such hearing: the Objector, GEORGE BROWN, and/or his Attorney, ROSS D SECLER; and the Candidate, PAUL COLLINS, and/or his Attorney, ED MULLEN.

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 his 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 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 473.

B. The number of purportedly valid signatures appearing on the nominating petition filed by the Candidate total 910.

C. The remaining number of signatures deemed valid as a result of the records examination total 559.

13. The Electoral Board finds that the number of valid signatures appearing on the Candidate's nominating petition following completion of the records examination exceeds the minimum number of valid signatures required by law to be placed upon the ballot as a candidate for the office of Alderman for the 9th Ward of the City of Chicago.

14. Neither party filed motions pursuant to Rule 8 of the Board's Rules of Procedure.

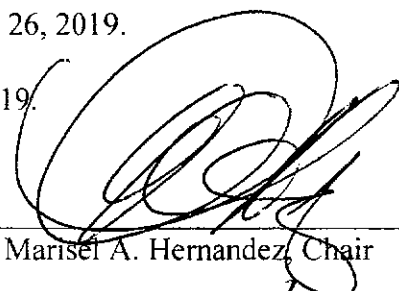
15. The Hearing Officer has tendered to the Electoral Board a report and recommended decision. Based upon the evidence presented, the Hearing Officer found that the Candidate's Nomination Papers contained 559 valid signatures, which exceeds the minimum number of valid signatures required by law to be placed upon the ballot as a candidate for the office of Alderman for the 9th Ward of the City of Chicago, and that the Candidate's Nomination Papers should be found valid.

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.

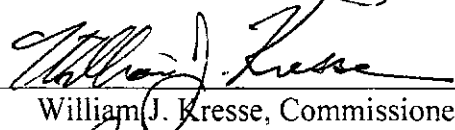
17. For the reasons stated above, the Electoral Board finds that the Candidate has a sufficient number of valid signatures on his nominating petitions and that the Nomination Papers of PAUL COLLINS are, therefore, valid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of GEORGE BROWN to the Nomination Papers of PAUL COLLINS, candidate for the office of Alderman for the 9th Ward of the City of Chicago, are hereby OVERRULED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared VALID and the name of PAUL COLLINS, candidate for the office of Alderman for the 9th Ward of the City of Chicago, SHALL be printed on the official ballot for the General Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, February 26, 2019.

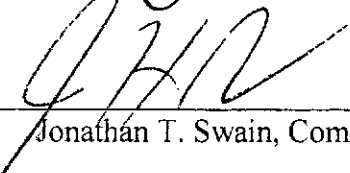
Dated: Chicago, Illinois, on Tuesday, January 8, 2019.



Marisel A. Hernandez, Chair



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.

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO AS THE DULY CONSTITUTED ELECTORAL BOARD FOR THE HEARING AND PASSING UPON OF OBJECTIONS TO THE NOMINATING PAPERS OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF ALDERMAN OF THE SEVENTH (7TH) WARD OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS TO BE VOTED UPON AT THE FEBRUARY 26, 2019 MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION

GEORGE BROWN,)
Objector/Petitioner,)
)
)
v.) 19-EB-ALD-011
)
PAUL COLLINS,)
Candidate/Respondent)
)

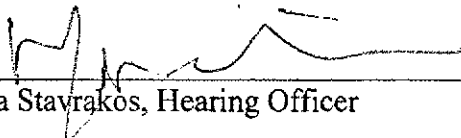
HEARING OFFICER'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDED DECISION

1. The Candidate, PAUL COLLINS filed his Nomination Papers for election to the office of Alderman of the 9th Ward of the City of Chicago, to be voted upon at the Municipal General Election to be held on February 26, 2019.
2. The Objector, GEORGE BROWN, filed a timely petition objecting to the Nomination Papers of the Candidate.
3. The initial case management hearing occurred in this case on December 10, 2018, where Board Exhibits were entered into evidence by the Hearing Officer. A records exam directive was issued and a Status Hearing was set for December 17, 2018.
4. A Status Hearing took place on December 17, 2018 and was subsequently continued for December 27, 2018.
5. The case was set for Record Examination on December 19, 2018 at 1:15pm. On December 26, 2018 the parties were served with the Final Petition Summary Report. The Record Exam result of 559 total valid signatures yielded 86 valid signatures over the 473 signatures required for the office of Alderman.

6. At the December 27, 2018 status hearing, the Hearing Officer asked the parties of their intention to file Rule 8 motions, as they would be due at 5pm. The Objector advised that he would not be filing a Rule 8 motion. The Candidate then advised, due to the Objector's response, that he would not file a Rule 8 motion. The Objector stated that he would rest on the Record Exam results.

7. Therefore, it is Recommended that the results of the Record Exam be accepted, that the Candidate has more than 86 signatures greater than the required minimum of 473 signatures for the Office of Alderman.

8. The Candidate, PAUL COLLINS, shall appear on the ballot as a candidate for Alderman of the 9th Ward.



Maria Stavrakos, Hearing Officer