

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

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Objections of: RENE SOTO and VIRGINIA )  
J CONTRERAS )  
 )  
To the Nomination ) No.: 19-EB-ALD-024  
Papers of: IRENE CORRAL )  
 )  
Candidate for the office of )  
Alderman of the 14th 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 RENE SOTO and VIRGINIA J CONTRERAS (“Objectors”) to the nomination papers (“Nomination Papers”) of IRENE CORRAL, for the office of Alderman of the 14th 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 Objectors 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 Monday, December 10, 2018 and was continued from time to time.

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

6. The Objectors 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 Objectors, RENE SOTO and VIRGINIA J CONTRERAS, and/or their Attorney, MICHAEL KRELOFF; and the Candidate, IRENE CORRAL, and or her Attorney, MATTHEW M WELCH.

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 her duly authorized representative was present during the examination of the registration records.

10. The Objectors and/or their 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 473;
  - B. The number of purportedly valid signatures appearing on the nominating petition filed by the Candidate total 835;
  - C. The number of signatures deemed invalid because of objections sustained as a result of the records examination total 486;
  - D. The remaining number of signatures deemed valid as a result of the records examination total 349.

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 office of Alderman of the 14th Ward of the City of Chicago.

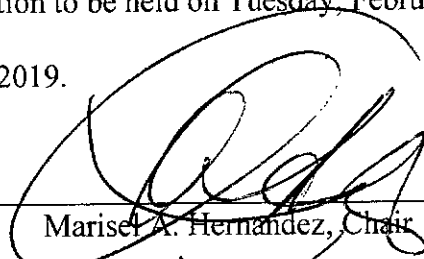
14. The Hearing Officer has tendered to the Electoral Board a report and recommended decision. Based upon the evidence presented, the Hearing Officer found that the Candidate's Nomination Papers contained only 349 valid signatures, which is less than the minimum number of valid signatures required by law to be placed upon the official ballot as a candidate for the office of Alderman for the 14th Ward of the City of Chicago, 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.

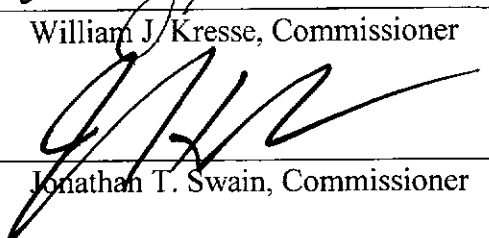
16. For the reasons stated above, the Electoral Board finds that the Candidate has an insufficient number of valid signatures on her nominating petitions and that the Nomination Papers of IRENE CORRAL are, therefore, invalid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of RENE SOTO and VIRGINIA J CONTRERAS to the Nomination Papers of IRENE CORRAL, candidate for election to the office of Alderman of the 14th Ward of the City of Chicago, are hereby SUSTAINED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared INVALID and the name of IRENE CORRAL, candidate for the office of Alderman for the 14th Ward of the City of Chicago, SHALL NOT be printed on the official ballot for the General Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, February 26, 2019.

Dated: Chicago, Illinois, on Friday, January 25, 2019.

  
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Marisel A. Hernandez, Chair

  
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William J. Kresse, Commissioner

  
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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 OBJECTIONS TO MUNICIPAL OFFICES IN THE CITY OF  
CHICAGO**

Objections of )  
)  
Rene Soto and )  
Virginia J. Contreras )  
)  
To the Nomination Papers of ) Case No. 19 EB ALD 024  
)  
Irene Corral )  
)  
Candidate for the Office of )  
Alderman of the 14<sup>th</sup> Ward of )  
the City of Chicago )  
)

**HEARING OFFICER'S FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

**THIS MATTER**, coming before the duly constituted Electoral Board, consisting of Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, and before the undersigned hearing officer, the hearing officer hereby makes the following Final Report and Recommendation:

**Preliminary Facts**

The candidate filed Nomination Papers as a Candidate for the Office of Alderman of the 14<sup>th</sup> Ward of the City of Chicago. Such nomination papers consist of (i) Statement of Candidacy; (ii) Nomination Petition Sheets; (iii) Loyalty Oath; and (iv) Statement of Economic Interests.

The Objectors' Petition to the Nomination Papers of the Candidate was timely filed December 3, 2018. In the Petition, the Objectors allege the petition pages contain: (i) petition signer signatures which are not genuine; and (ii) the names of persons who are not registered at the address shown.

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 certified mail or by Sheriff's service, as provided by statute.

The initial hearing on the Objectors' Petition was called on December 10, 2018. Mr. Ed Mullen and Mr. Michael Kreloff appeared on behalf of the Objectors. Mr. Matthew Welch appeared on behalf of the candidate. At the hearing, the Candidate requested the opportunity to file a Motion to Strike and Dismiss the Objectors' Petition. A briefing schedule was set pursuant to the Rules of Procedure for the Board of Election Commissioners of the City of Chicago. The Candidate's Motion to Strike and the Objectors' Response to the Motion to Strike Objectors' Petition were timely filed. A hearing on the Candidate's Motion to Strike and Dismiss Objectors' Petition was set for December 13, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. Erin E. Blake appeared on behalf of the Candidate. Mr. Mullen and Mr. Kreloff appeared on behalf of the Objectors.

After hearing, it was found the Objector's Petition were not bad faith "shotgun" objections. Thereafter, a records examination proceeded and the final results were served upon the Candidate and Objectors January 17, 2019. The results showed the Candidate received an insufficient number of signatures to be placed on the ballot. Counsel for the Candidate indicated in writing no Rule 8 Motion will be filed contesting these results. The results of the Records Examination stand.

### CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Hearing Officer makes the following final recommendations:

1. That the nomination papers of Irene Corral be found invalid due to an insufficient amount of signatures;

2. That the Candidate, Irene Corral, not be placed on the ballot for Candidate for the Office of Alderman for the 14<sup>th</sup> Ward of the City of Chicago; and
3. That no further hearings be scheduled before the Hearing Officer in this matter.

Dated: January 23, 2019

/s/ David Kadzai

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David Kadzai  
Hearing Officer