

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

---

Objections of: DEBRA PARKER and	)	
GERALDA MORGAN	)	
	)	
To the Nomination	)	No.: 19-EB-ALD-050
Papers of: JOSEPH C. ZIEGLER, JR.	)	
	)	Rel.: 19-EB-ALD-016
Candidate for the office of	)	
Alderman of the 21st 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 DEBRA PARKER and GERALDA MORGAN (“Objectors”) to the nomination papers (“Nomination Papers”) of JOSEPH C. ZIEGLER, JR., candidate for the office of Alderman of the 21st 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 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 Samuel V. Jones 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 Call. The following persons, among others, were present at or filed appearances during such hearing; the Objectors, DEBRA PARKER and GERALDA MORGAN, and/or their Attorney, MICHAEL J KASPER; and the Candidate, JOSEPH C. ZIEGLER, JR., 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 his 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 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 remaining number of signatures deemed valid as a result of the records examination total 538.

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 21st 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 538 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 21st Ward of the City of Chicago, and that the Candidate's Nomination Papers should be found valid.

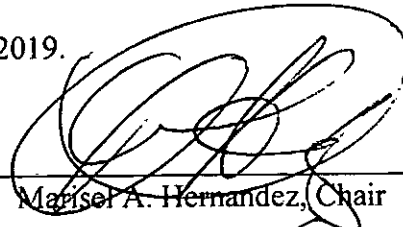
15. The Electoral Board, having considered the evidence and arguments tendered by the parties and the Hearing Officer's report of recommended findings and conclusions of law, hereby adopts the Hearing Officer's recommended findings and conclusions of law.

16. For the reasons stated above, and in light of the similar result in related case 19-EB-ALD-016, the Electoral Board finds that the Candidate has a sufficient number of valid

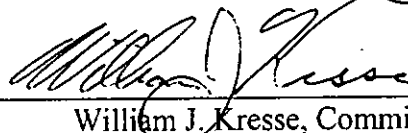
signatures on his nominating petitions and that the Nomination Papers of JOSEPH C. ZIEGLER, JR. are, therefore, valid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of DEBRA PARKER and GERALDA MORGAN to the Nomination Papers of JOSEPH C. ZIEGLER, JR., candidate for the office of Alderman for the 21st Ward of the City of Chicago, are hereby OVERRULED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared VALID and the name of JOSEPH C. ZIEGLER, JR., candidate for the office of Alderman for the 21st 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.

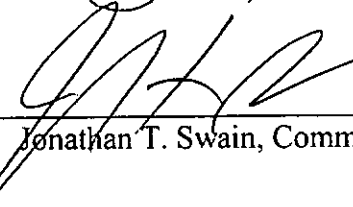
Dated: Chicago, Illinois, on Tuesday, January 22, 2019.



Marisol 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.

**BEFORE THE DULY CONSTITUTED ELECTORAL BOARD FOR THE HEARING AND PASSING UPON OBJECTIONS TO THE NOMINATION PAPERS OF CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF ALDERMAN FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> WARD, CITY OF CHICAGO, STATE OF ILLINOIS, TO BE VOTED ON AT THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 26, 2019**

Case No. 19-EB-ALD-050

**DEBRA PARKER & GERALDA MORGAN**, Petitioners-Objectors

vs.

**JOSEPH ZIEGLER, JR.**, Respondent-Candidate.

**Report and Recommendation of Hearing Officer Samuel V. Jones**

1. On November 26, 2018, the Respondent-Candidate, **JOSEPH ZIEGLER, JR.** (hereinafter ("Candidate")), filed Nomination Papers in support of his nomination to the office of Alderman for the 21st Ward, City of Chicago, in the State of Illinois ("Nomination Papers").
2. On December 3, 2018, Petitioners-Objectors, **DEBRA PARKER & GERALDA MORGAN**, (hereinafter, "Objectors") objected to the sufficiency of the candidate's Nomination Papers, for various reasons stated in paragraphs 4-12 of Objector's Petition, claiming Candidate lacks 473 valid signatures as required under Illinois law.
3. On December 10, 2018, the initial hearing was conducted. At such time, Objectors appeared by and through their attorney, Michael Kasper. Candidate appeared *pro se* according to his signed and filed Appearance, but stated during the hearing he had retained counsel.
4. During the initial hearing, Candidate confirmed receipt of the Call to the Meeting of the Electoral Board, Objector's Petition, and the Rules of Procedure. Mr. Kasper acknowledged Receipt of Call and Rules of Procedure. Both parties confirmed they each read and fully understood the Rules of Procedures.
5. After reviewing the issues and facts identified in the filed documents, it became readily clear that the issues raised by the Objectors could be resolved by a Records Examination. During the initial hearing, when I asked Mr. Kasper to state the factual and legal issues that formed the basis of Objector's allegations, Mr. Kasper confirmed that this matter could be fully resolved by a records examination and that there were no other issues to resolve. Mr. Kasper stated, "It's our belief that the number of signatures that Mr. Ziegler stated is below that [legal] threshold because a certain number of the people who signed Mr. Ziegler's petition are not registered voters in the ward, or their addresses are not located in the ward,

that sort of thing. Factual disputes that I think are traditionally resolved by a records examination, and there are no legal issues set forth.”

6. Pursuant to Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure, during the initial hearing, a Records Examination was ordered to determine the adequacy of the Objector's allegations relative to whether Candidate had filed the minimum number of required valid signatures under Illinois law.
7. On January 12, 2019, the Final Petition Summary Report of the Records Examination was completed. The reported results were as follows:

Signatures required: 473  
Total pages: 57  
Total signatures: 976  
Total objections: 745  
Total ruled on: 745  
Total sustained lines: 438  
Total overruled lines: 248  
**Total valid signatures: 538**  
Total unchallenged Signatures: 290

8. The Record Examination results indicates that Candidate has **“65 Signatures greater than the required minimum.”**
9. Candidate nor Objectors filed for a Rule 8 evidentiary hearing after release of the final results of the records examination.
10. On January 18, 2019, a second hearing was conducted. Candidate was present. Mr. Kasper chose not to appear and kindly advised that objectors would stand on the results of the records exam. The results of the Records Examination were read into the record.

**Findings and Recommendation:** Based on the results of the records examination in this case, and the results in related case, *Laroy Davis vs. Joseph Ziegler, Jr.*, 19-EB-ALD-016, in which a records exam also found Candidate exceeded the minimum number of required signatures, I find that Candidate's Nomination papers satisfy the minimum requirements for Candidate's name to be placed on the ballot for the office of Alderman for the 21st Ward, City of Chicago, State of Illinois, during the municipal election to be held February 26, 2019. Therefore, I recommend the objections contained in Objector's Petition to the candidacy of Mr. Joseph Ziegler, Jr. be **overruled** because the Nomination Papers contain the minimum number of valid signatures required under Illinois law; and (2) Candidate's name, Joseph Ziegler, Jr., be included on the ballot during the upcoming Alderman election.

*Samuel V. Jones*

---

Samuel V. Jones  
Hearing Officer

