

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE
BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF CHICAGO
AS THE DULY CONSTITUTED ELECTORAL BOARD FOR HEARING AND
PASSING UPON OBJECTIONS TO NOMINATION PAPERS AND PETITIONS
FOR QUESTIONS OF PUBLIC POLICY

David Lottich,

Petitioner-objector,

v.

26-EB-QPP-001

Southside Together and Sanya
Bhartiya,

Respondent-question proponent.

OBJECTOR'S PETITION

INTRODUCTION

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David Lottich, hereinafter sometimes referred to as the Objector, states as follows:

1. The Objector resides at 3068 E. 79th Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60649, in the Ward 7, Precinct 14, and is a duly qualified, legal, and registered voter at that address.
2. The Objector's interest in filing this Petition is that of a voter desirous that the laws governing petitions for submission of public questions are properly complied with, and that only qualified questions of public policy appear on the ballot.

OBJECTIONS

3. The Objector makes the following objections to the purported public policy petition papers ("Nomination Papers") of Southside Together to submit the following non-binding advisory question of public policy to be voted on:

Because it will cause displacement, pollution, and higher energy bills in our neighborhood, was proposed without community consent despite costing billions of taxpayer dollars, and will be a public health and safety hazard, should our Alderman Gregory Mitchell, Mayor Brandon

Johnson, and Governor JB Pritzker stop the development of the Illinois Quantum Microelectronics Park on the former South Works site?

Vote Yes if they should instead commit to properly remediating the contaminated land on the former South Works site and developing resident-focused, resident-controlled usage of the site such as grocery stores, truly accessible housing, and youth centers that create job opportunities for residents with community oversight.

The Objector states that the Nomination Papers are insufficient in fact and law for the following reasons:

4. Pursuant to State law, "Petitions for the submission of public questions shall consist of sheets of uniform size and each sheet shall contain, above the space for signature, an appropriate heading, giving the information as to the question of public policy to be submitted, and specifying the state at large or the political subdivision or district or precinct or combination of precincts or other territory in which it is to be submitted and, where by law the public question must be submitted at a particular election, the election at which it is to be submitted." 10 ILCS 5/28-3.

5. The Nomination Papers petition sheets state "the following advisory question of public policy be placed on the ballot for submission to the voters of the 7th Ward 14th Precinct for their approval or disapproval, by referendum, at the MUNICIPAL PRIMARY ELECTION currently scheduled to be held on March 17th, 2026." This fails to comply with Election Code section 5/28-3's requirement that the petition state the "particular election" the question is to be submitted. The next municipal primary election will not be held until 2027. The General Primary Election is scheduled to be held on March 17, 2026. The petitions thus refer to two separate elections in violation of legal requirements.

6. Section 28-3 also only permits petitions for one question. It refers in the singular to "the question of policy to be submitted" and "where by law the public question must be submitted." The Election Code thus limits petitions for public questions to a single proposition per petition. The question on the petitions contains more than one proposition, and is therefore invalid.

7. Specifically, the following statements in the questions contain multiple propositions. The first section of the question states: "Because it will cause displacement, pollution, and higher energy bills in our neighborhood, was proposed without community consent despite costing billions of taxpayer dollars, and will be a public health and safety hazard, should our Alderman Gregory Mitchell, Mayor Brandon Johnson, and Governor JB Pritzker stop the development of the Illinois Quantum Microelectronics Park on the former South Works site?"

- a. The question begins with seven (7) separate purported factual premises: displacement, pollution, higher energy bills, proposal without “community consent,” billions of taxpayer dollars, public health, and safety hazards. These purported facts, however, are mere opinion. Further, assuming they state facts, it compounds multiple factual premises into one question of public policy. Voters may be opposed to pollution, but not displacement. Some voters may not be concerned with public health and safety, but are opposed to higher electrical bills. Some voters may not be concerned with public spending, but are concerned about pollution. The question thus rolls numerous possible objections into one question.
- b. It then proceeds to ask, based on the assumption of those compounded factual premises, whether Alderman Mitchell, Mayor Johnson, and Governor Pritzker should stop the development of the Illinois Quantum Microelectronics Park. It thus asks whether three separate elected officials who have no independent legal authority to “stop development” should, in fact, stop the project. This is not a proper public policy question. It combines questions for three public officials into one question.
- c. Further, it asks whether three individual public officials should take legal action for which they lack authority. It is thus not an actual question of public policy directed to any of the three officials.

8. The second sentence to the question states: “Vote Yes if they should instead commit to properly remediating the contaminated land on the former South Works site and developing resident-focused, resident-controlled usage of the site such as grocery stores, truly accessible housing, and youth centers that create job opportunities for residents with community oversight.”

- a. This sentence asks the voter to vote “Yes” *ONLY* if the site should be used for (1) resident focused usage, and (2) resident controlled usage, for purposes “such as” (1) grocery stores, (2) “truly accessible housing” (which is undefined), and (3) youth centers that (1) create job opportunities and (2) community oversight. This rolls numerous issues into one statement that a voter must accept all of them to vote yes, even though a voter may be for one reason but not another.

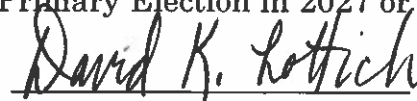
9. The violations of section 28-3 identified in paragraphs 6-8 also violate article III, section 3 of the Illinois Constitution, which provides “All elections shall be free and equal.”

10. The language used is also vague and ambiguous because it prohibits a clear determination of what voters are approving. Is it because of pollution that Mayor Johnson should commit to remediating the land for grocery stores? Or is it because of public safety that Governor Pritzker should create “truly accessible housing”? Or should a voter vote no because displacement is not something the voter

is concerned with?

11. The proposed question is invalid in its entirety because it is not a question of public policy. Instead, it seeks to use the ballot to spread the respondents' messaging propaganda. This is not permitted by the Election Code or the Illinois Constitution.

WHEREFORE, the Objector requests: a) a hearing on the objections set forth herein; b) a ruling that the Petitions are insufficient in law and fact, and c) a ruling that referendum questions submitted by respondent shall not appear and not be printed on the ballot either the next Municipal Primary Election in 2027 or General Primary Election to be held on March 17, 2026.



David Lottich
OBJECTOR

Address:
3068 E. 79th Street,
Chicago, IL 60649

VERIFICATION

STATE OF ILLINOIS

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) SS.

COUNTY OF COOK

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I, David K. Lottich, being first duly sworn upon oath, depose and state that I have read the above and foregoing OBJECTOR'S PETITION, and that the matters and facts contained therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

David K. Lottich

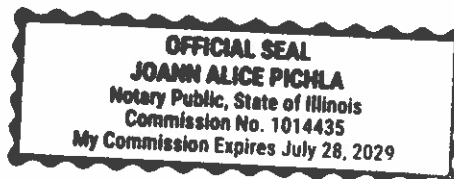
Subscribed and sworn to before me

by

this 22nd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

Joann A. Pichla

Notary Public



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