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

Objections of: Bernard Brown and Maria Heard	)	
To the Nomination Papers of: Tameka Walton	)	No.: 26-EB-SBD-005
	)	Rel. 26-EB-SBD-029
Candidate for the office of Member of the Chicago Board of Education, Subdistrict 10A, City of Chicago	)	

FINDINGS AND DECISION

The duly constituted Electoral Board, consisting of the Board of the Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago, Commissioners Marisel A. Hernandez, June A. Brown and Laura Kotelman 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 Bernard Brown and Maria Heard ("Objectors") to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of Tameka Walton, candidate for the office of Member of the Chicago Board of Education, Subdistrict 10A in the City of Chicago ("Candidate") at the General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, having convened on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 10:00 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 were duly and timely filed.

2. The Electoral Board was constituted according to 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, or statutory service was waived and service by email was authorized.

4. A public hearing held on these Objections commenced on Wednesday, June 10, 2026 and was continued from time to time.

5. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Officer Linda R. Crane for further hearings and proceedings.

6. The Objectors and the Candidate were directed by the Electoral Board's Call served upon them to appear before the Hearing Officer on the date and at the time designated in the Hearing Schedule. Appearances were filed by or on behalf of the following persons: the Objectors, Bernard Brown and Maria Heard, by Attorneys ROSS D. SECLER, JAYMAN A. AVERY III, and PRISCILLA CENTENO; and the Candidate, Tameka Walton, by Attorneys STEVEN FINE and 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 the Candidate's duly authorized representative was present during the examination of the registration records or waived their right to do so.

10. The Objectors and/or the Objector's duly authorized representative were present during the examination of the registration records or waived their right to do so.

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 1233;

C. The number of signatures deemed invalid because of objections sustained as a result of the records examination total 788;

D. The remaining number of signatures deemed valid as a result of the records examination total 445.

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 fewer than the minimum number of valid signatures required by law to be placed upon the official ballot as a candidate for the office of Member of the Chicago Board of Education, Subdistrict 10A, City of Chicago.

14. The Candidate filed a motion pursuant to Rule 8 of the Electoral Board's Rules of Procedure but later withdrew that motion and rested on the results of the records examination.

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 445 valid signatures, which is 55 fewer than the minimum number of valid signatures required by law to be placed upon the official ballot as a

candidate for the office of Member of the Chicago Board of Education, Subdistrict 10A of the City of Chicago, 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 and incorporates them herein.

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

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of Bernard Brown and Maria Heard to the Nomination Papers of Tameka Walton, candidate for election to the office of Member of the Chicago Board of Education, Subdistrict 10A, City of Chicago, are hereby SUSTAINED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared INVALID and the name of Tameka Walton SHALL NOT be printed on the official ballot for the General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

Dated: July 28, 2026

Marisel A. Hernandez, Chair

June A. Brown, Commissioner

Laura Kotelman, Commissioner

NOTICE: Pursuant to Section 10-10.1 of the Election Code (10 ILCS 5/10-10.1) a party aggrieved by 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 OF NOMINATION OBJECTIONS TO NOMINATION PAPERS OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF MEMBER OF THE CHICAGO BOARD OF EDUCATION, SUB-DISTRICT 10A, IN THE CITY OF CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, TO BE VOTED UPON AT THE NOVEMBER 3RD, 2026 GENERAL ELECTION

IN THE MATTER OF		
BERNARD BROWN & MARIA HEARD,	)	
	)	
Petitioner-Objector	)	
	)	**Case No. 26-EB-SBD-005**
vs.	)	
	)	
TAMEKA WALTON(f/k/a Temeka Lawson,	)	
	)	
Respondent-Candidate	)	

HEARING OFFICER'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Respondent Candidate, **TAMEKA WALTON,** has filed Nomination Papers in support of her nomination for the office of Member of the Chicago Board of Education, Sub-District 10A in the City of Chicago, County of Cook, State of Illinois, to be voted upon during the upcoming General Election on November 3, 2026 (Election). The Petitioners-Objectors, **BERNARD BROWN & MARIA HEARD**, filed a Verified Objector's Petition Objecting to the sufficiency of the Candidate's nomination papers for various reasons stated in Paragraphs 5 through 13 of their Petition. The initial hearing on the matter was held on June 10, 2026. The Objector's Attorney, Priscilla Centeno, was present and filed her Appearance. The Candidate's attorney, Steven Fine, was also present and filed his Appearance.
The file was assembled and a briefing schedule was set for the Candidate to file a Motion to Dismiss before 5 pm on June 11, 2026, to be followed by a Response and Reply, if any, on by 5 pm on June 12 and June 13, respectively. The parties requested a Records Examination to address the objections based on the allegation that the Candidate had failed to file the required number of 500 valid voters' signatures with her Nomination Papers. Prior to the initial hearing, Adam Lasker, the CBOE General Counsel, had informed all Hearing Officers to ignore allegations of dual circulators if present in any of our cases. The next hearing date was set for June 17, 2026.

On June 17, 2026, the second hearing commenced with attorneys for both parties present to wit: Attorney Jayman Avery added his Appearance to that of the current counsel of record for the Objectors; and Attorney Ed Mullen added his Appearance on behalf of the Candidate. The primary purpose of the hearing was as a status following the RE and to read the RE results into the record. The RE had not yet been completed, however; and the hearing was continued until June 22nd to allow time for it to be completed.

The next hearing commenced on June 22nd, 2026. Mr. Avery and Mr. Fine were present. The RE Final Report results were available and were read into the record, as follows:

Signatures Required:	**500**
10th Chicago Board of Education District 10A	
Total Pages:	**126**
Total Signatures:	**1233**
Total Objections:	**2211**
Total Ruled On:	**2211**
Total Remaining:	**0**
Total Sustained Lines:	**788**
Total Overruled Lines:	**119**
For Review (Candidate):	**712**
For Review (Objector):	**794**
Total Valid Signatures:	**445**
Total Unchallenged Sigs:	**326**

55 Signatures fewer than the required minimum

At the time of the hearing (2:00 pm) on June 22nd, the Candidate had additional time, until 5:00 pm, to request an evidentiary hearing by filing a Rule 8 Motion: an option that her attorney said she was still contemplating. The hearing was adjourned after setting the next hearing date for July 6, 2026. The Candidate filed a timely Rule 8 Motion; but later withdrew it in favor of "resting on the RE results."

Based on the foregoing, it is my recommendation to the Commissioners that the Candidate's name should not be placed on the ballot during the upcoming Election.

Respectfully submitted,

July 23, 2026

Linda R. Crane

Linda R. Crane, Hearing Officer