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

Objections of: Hector Villafuerte	)	
	)	
	)	
To the Nomination	)	No.: 26-EB-SBD-013
Papers of: Jason Dónes	)	
	)	
Candidate for the office of	)	
Member of the Chicago Board of Education,	)	
Subdistrict 3B, 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 Hector Villafuerte ("Objector") to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of Jason Dónes, candidate for the office of Member of the Chicago Board of Education, Subdistrict 3B 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 Objector 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. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Officer Demetrius Carney for further hearings and proceedings.

5. The Objector 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 Objector, Hector Villafuerte, by Attorneys MICHAEL J KASPER, ERIC M. DOMIJANCIC and JOHN FOGARTY; and the Candidate, Jason Dónes, by Attorneys ED MULLEN.

6. 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.

7. The Hearing Officer directed all parties to appear and be present, either personally and/or by their authorized representatives during this records examination.

8. 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.

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

10. 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.

11. 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 1,500.

C. The number of signatures deemed invalid because of objections sustained as a result of the records examination total 401.

D. The remaining number of signatures deemed valid as a result of the records examination total 1,099.

12. 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 Member of the Chicago Board of Education, Subdistrict 3B, City of Chicago.

13. No motion was filed under Rule 8 of the Electoral Board's Rules of Procedure.

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 1,099 valid signatures, which exceeds by 599 the minimum number of valid signatures required by law to be placed upon the ballot as a candidate for the office of Member of the Chicago Board of Education, Subdistrict 3B, City of Chicago, and that the Candidate's Nomination Papers should be found valid.

15. Objector(s) further allege that circulators who circulated for an established party candidate at the March 2026 General Primary are prohibited from circulating for a nonpartisan school board candidate to be elected at the November 2026 General Election and that the signatures gathered by the "dual circulators" are invalid and in violation of Section 10-4 of the Election Code. The Electoral Board, having heard this issue in a separate consolidated proceeding and having considered the pleadings, motions, responses, oral arguments and relevant caselaw, all of which shall remain a part of the record, finds that the decision in *McCaskill v Municipal Officers Electoral Bd. For the City of Harvey, et. al.,* 2019 IL App (1st) 190190, is binding upon the Electoral Board. The Appellate Court unequivocally ruled therein that "[s]imply stated, the dual-circulation prohibition in section 10-4 does not apply to nonpartisan elections." *Id.* at ¶ 45. Accordingly, the objection(s) based upon alleged dual circulation are therefore overruled.

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 a sufficient number of valid signatures on his nominating petitions and that the Nomination Papers of Jason Dónes are, therefore, valid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of Hector Villafuerte to the Nomination Papers of Jason Dónes, candidate for the office of Member of the Chicago Board of Education, Subdistrict 3B, City of Chicago are hereby OVERRULED, said Nomination Papers

are hereby declared VALID, and the name of Jason Dónes SHALL be printed on the official ballot for the General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

Dated: Chicago, Illinois, Tuesday, 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.