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

Objections of: Wanda Barsano	)	
	)	
	)	
To the Nomination	)	No.: 26-EB-SBD-009
Papers of: Claudia Peralta	)	
	)	
Candidate for the office of	)	
Member of the Chicago Board of Education,	)	
Subdistrict 1B, 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 Wanda Barsano ("Objector") to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of Claudia Peralta, candidate for the office of Member of the Chicago Board of Education, Subdistrict 1B 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.

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

6. 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, Wanda Barsano, by Attorneys MICHAEL J KASPER and TIFFANY NELSON-JAWORSKI; and the Candidate, Claudia Peralta, by Attorney 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 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.

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 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 254.

D. The remaining number of signatures deemed valid as a result of the records examination total 1,246.

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 Member of the Chicago Board of Education, Subdistrict 1B, City of Chicago.

14. If requested by a party pursuant to Rule 8, the Hearing Officer conducted a hearing to allow the party an opportunity to present evidence in support of its Rule 8 motion objecting to the Board's clerk's findings during the records examination.

15. Furthermore, Objector(s) alleged that circulators who circulated for an established party candidate at the March 2026 General Primary were 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. Pursuant to Electoral Board Rule 23, the Final Report and Recommended Decision was submitted by the Electoral Board's attorney, due to the unavailability of the assigned Hearing Officer. The Board Attorney reviewed the case file in detail and thereby provided his recommended findings of fact and conclusions of law. Based upon the evidence presented, it was found that the Candidate's Nomination Papers contained 1,246 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 Member of the Chicago Board of Education, Subdistrict 1B, City of Chicago, and that the Candidate's Nomination Papers should be found valid.

17. The Electoral Board, having considered the evidence and arguments tendered by the parties and the Electoral Board Attorney's report of recommended findings and conclusions of law, hereby adopts the Electoral Board Attorney's recommended findings and conclusions of law and incorporates them herein.

18. For the reasons stated above, the Electoral Board finds that the Candidate has a sufficient number of valid signatures on her nominating petitions and that the Nomination Papers of Claudia Peralta are, therefore, valid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of Wanda Barsano to the Nomination Papers of Claudia Peralta, candidate for the office of Member of the Chicago Board of Education, Subdistrict 1B, City of Chicago are hereby OVERRULED, said Nomination Papers are hereby declared VALID, and the name of Claudia Peralta SHALL be printed on the official ballot for the General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

Dated: Chicago, Illinois, Tuesday, August 11, 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.

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

Objections of: **WANDA BARSANO**	)	
	)	
To the Nomination	)	No.: **26-EB-SBD-009**
Papers of: **CLAUDIA PERALTA**	)	
	)	
Candidate for the office of member of the Chicago Board of Education, Subdistrict 1B.	)	

FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDED DECISION

An Objector's Petition was timely filed in this matter on June 2, 2026, by Wanda Barsano (the "Objector"). The Electoral Board called the case on June 9, 2026, and assigned the matter to Hearing Officer Joseph Morris. Throughout the course of the proceedings, the Objector was represented by attorney Michael Kasper. The Candidate, Claudia Peralta (the "Candidate"), was represented by attorney Ed Mullen.

Pursuant to Electoral Board Rule 23, this Final Report and Recommended Decision is being submitted by the Electoral Board's attorney, due to the unavailability of the assigned Hearing Officer. The Board Attorney has reviewed the case file in detail and thereby provides the following recommended findings of fact and conclusions of law.

The Objector's Petition alleged that the Candidate's Nomination Papers lacked sufficient valid signatures, and specific, line-by-line objections were set forth in the "Appendix-Recapitulation" attached to and incorporated therein. It also alleged that certain petition circulators were ineligible, and the signatures they gathered were therefore invalid, due to the "dual-circulation" rule set forth in Section 10-4 of the Election Code.

The Hearing Officer found no legal deficiencies in the Objector's Petition and, therefore, no reason to strike or dismiss the objections. Under routine procedures, the Candidate's Nomination Papers were sent to the Electoral Board staff for a Rule 6 Records Examination in

accordance with the objections lodged in the Objector's Petition, and the final results of that exam were as follows:

A. Total valid signatures required = 500

B. Total signatures filed = 1,500 (the statutory maximum)

C. Total objections lodged and ruled upon = 1,249

D. Total signatures invalidated due to sustained objections = 254

E. Total signatures validated due to overruled objections = 480

F. **Total valid signatures = 1,246**

Based upon these Records Exam results, the Candidate's Nomination Papers contain 746 signatures *greater than* the required minimum. Additionally, the Electoral Board issued a preliminary decision on the dual-circulation issue, stating that it will overrule those objections pursuant to the binding Illinois appellate court decision of *McCaskill v. Muni. Officers Electoral Bd. for City of Harvey,* 2019 IL App (1st) 190190 at ¶ 45: "Simply stated, the dual-circulation prohibition in section 10-4 does not apply to nonpartisan elections."

WHEREFORE, it is recommended that the Electoral Board enter a Final Decision finding that the Candidate's Nomination Papers contain 746 signatures *greater than* the legally required minimum, that the Nomination Papers are legally valid, and that the name Claudia Peralta is qualified to be printed upon the ballot for the 2026 Nonpartisan Election for the office of member of the Chicago Board of Education, Subdistrict 1B.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam W. Lasker
Electoral Board Rule 23 Attorney