

**HEARING AND PASSING UPON OBJECTIONS TO THE NOMINATION PAPERS
FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF WILL COUNTY BOARD MEMBER
DISTRICT 03, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

JOEL BROWN,)	
Petitioner –Objector,)	
)	
v.)	No. 19-5
)	
RAQUEL MITCHELL,)	
Respondent- Candidate.)	

DECISION AND ORDER

The Will County Officers Electoral Board, Chairperson Lauren Staley Ferry, County Clerk of Will County, Illinois, Andrea Chasteen, Circuit Clerk of Will County, Illinois and James W. Glasgow, State’s Attorney of Will County, Illinois through his designee, Assistant State’s Attorney Mary Tatroe, convened on December 13, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. The Objector Joel Brown was personally present. The Candidate Raquel Mitchell was personally present with counsel Bryan Kopman. The Board adopted hearing rules unanimously on December 13, 2019 which governed the hearing. The matter was continued for further hearing until December 19, 2019 at 2:30 p.m.

THE OBJECTION

The Objection alleges insufficient valid voter signatures to accompany the petition to authorize the placing of the candidate’s name on the ballot for the Republican primary for the office of Will County Board Member District 3. Objections were made to various signatures contained in the nominating petition.

THE HEARING

The matter was called for hearing immediately after the rules were adopted. The nominating papers of candidate Raquel Mitchell were placed into evidence and considered by the Electoral Board. The County Clerk provided voter records to be examined to determine the validity of any particular objections. The parties present were allowed to submit evidence and/or make arguments to support their position.

APPLICABLE STATUTORY PROVISIONS

10 ILCS 5/7-10 (c) requires that the petition for a county board office must contain at least the number of signatures equal to 0.5% of the qualified primary electors of his or her party who cast votes at the last preceding general election in his or her county board district. 10 ILCS 5/7-3 states that in determining the total vote of a political party, whenever required by Article 7, the test shall be the total vote cast by such political party for its candidate who received the greatest number of votes.

FINDINGS

The Board finds that pursuant to the requirements of state statute, certified mail notices were sent by the Chairperson of the Board to each of the Board members, the Candidate and the Objector within the time and in the manner required by statute giving notice of the time and place of the convening of the Board for December 13, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at the Will County Courthouse for hearing upon the objection. Additionally, within the time required by law, notice of the call was placed for service with the Will County Sheriff for service upon each of the members of the Board, the Objector and the Candidate giving notice of the time and place of the convening of the Board for hearing upon the objection. The documents evidencing compliance with the notice requirements of the statute were filed with the Board. The Board hereby finds that it has been legally constituted according to the laws of the State of Illinois, has complied with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act and has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter. The matter was heard on objections on December 13, 2019, wherein the hearing was held on all objections except for the signatures on page 5 lines 2, 4 & 9; page 6 lines 6 & 7 which were heard in continued session held on December 19, 2019.

The Board further finds that:

- A. The last preceding general election in Will County Board District 3 occurred on November 8, 2016 and the Republican Party had qualified electors who cast votes in District 3.
- B. That 0.5% of Republican Party Voters in County Board District 3 is 37 Republican Party Voters.
- C. That at least 37 qualified Republican Party electors' signatures are required to place a candidate's name on the ballot for the office of County Board Member District 3.
- D. That the nominating papers filed for candidate Raquel Mitchell only contained a total of ~~58~~ ⁵⁷ signatures.
- E. Objections were made to the following signatures in the nominating papers and the Electoral Board ruled on each of those objections individually as follows:

Page	Line	Objection sustained	Objection overruled	Objection conceded
4	1			x
4	2			x
4	3			x
4	4			x
4	5			x
4	6			x
4	7			x
4	8			x
4	9			x
4	10			x
5	1			x
5	2	X		
5	4	X		
5	5			x

Page	Line	Objection sustained	Objection overruled	Objection conceded
5	9	X		
6	6	X		
6	7	X		
6	8			X
6	9			X
7	2			X
7	9			X
7	10			X
8	1			X
8	2	X		


F. That after the rulings were made on the questioned signatures, the nominating papers filed for candidate Raquel Mitchell lacked sufficient signatures to qualify her name to be placed on the ballot for the Republican primary for the office of Will County Board District 3.

ORDER


The Board orders that the objection to the nominating papers of Raquel Mitchell is hereby sustained. The County Clerk is ordered to not print her name upon the ballot. The parties are informed that if they feel aggrieved by the decision of the Board they may seek judicial review of this decision by filing within 5 days of this decision a petition with the clerk of the circuit court along with a proof of service to all parties.

The Board serves a written copy of this order in open session on the Parties present.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 19th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2019.


 LAUREN STALEY FERRY
 Will County Clerk


 ANDREA LYNN CHASTEEN
 Will County Circuit Clerk


 JAMES W. GLASGOW
 Will County State's Attorney
 By Mary M. Tatroe, Assistant State's Attorney