BEFORE THE WILL COUNTY OFFICERS ELECTORAL BOARD FOR THE HEARING AND PASSING UPON OBJECTIONS TO THE NOMINATION PAPERS FOR A CANDIDATE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY FOR THE OFFICE OF WILL COUNTY BOARD MEMBER FOR DISTRICT NO. 3, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS AT THE GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MARCH 15, 2016

IN THE MATTER OF:)				
OBJECTOR'S PETITION OF RICHARD L. GOUGIS III OBJECTION TO THE NOMINATION PAPERS OF SINATRA STRONG, CANDIDATE FOR THE NOMINATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO THE OFFICE OF WILL COUNTY BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 3.)))))	No. 15-2	LHINGO TIL. ALHANDO HOS ACHVII	2015 DEC 18	
DECISION AND ORD		POLITZ V	D	1 6 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	

The Will County Officers Electoral Board, Chairperson Nancy Schultz Voots County Clerk of Will County, Illinois through her designee Chief Deputy Clerk Judith L. Wiedmeyer, Pamela J. McGuire, 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, reconvened on December 16, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. Objector Richard L. Gougis III was present through his attorney Joseph Cernugel. The Candidate Sinatra Strong was present in person. The Board adopted hearing rules unanimously on December 10, 2015 which governed the hearing. The matter was called for hearing in open session.

THE OBJECTION

The Board finds that the Objection alleges: (a) the Nomination Papers and Petition do not contain the signature of the circulator and therefore should be invalidated; (b) the Statement of Candidacy does not contain the full address of the candidate and by virtue of which the Nomination Papers and Petitions should be invalidated; (c) The Nomination Papers contain sheets circulated by individuals whose sheets demonstrate a pattern of fraud and disregard of the Election Code to such a degree that said Nomination Papers and Petition are invalid, and should be invalidated in order to protect the integrity of the electoral process; and (d) that the

Nomination Papers submitted less than the required 59 valid signatures to be placed on the ballot for the office of Nominee of the Democratic Party to the Office of Will County Board District 3.

The hearing on the objection proceeded by way of an examination of applicable voter records in order to determine the validity of objected to signatures. The Objector offered no further evidence. The Candidate offered no evidence outside of the submitted petition.

Arguments were heard by the parties.

APPLICABLE STATUTORY PROVISIONS

10 ILCS 5/7-10 (c) requires the petition for county board member other than Cook County to be signed by at least the number of signatures equal to 0.5% of the qualified electors of his or her party who cast votes at the last preceding general election in the district in which the candidate is running for election. The term qualified elector is synonymous with registered voter.

FINDINGS

The Board finds that pursuant to the requirements of state statute, certified mail notices were sent by the Chairman 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 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 Board further finds as follows:

The number of valid Democratic Party voter's signatures to place a candidate on the ballot for Will County Board District 3 is 59 signatures. The Nominating Papers of candidate Sinatra Strong as delivered to the office of the County Clerk contained 78 signatures in support of that candidacy.

The objection that the Nomination Papers and Petition do not contain the signature of the circulator and therefore should be invalidated is overruled. The signature was duly notarized and the legal presumption is that the notary properly identified the circulator of each page of the Petition to be the circulator referenced therein.

The objection that the Statement of Candidacy does not contain the full address of the candidate and by virtue of which the Nomination Papers and Petitions should be invalidated is overruled. Although the Statement of Candidacy does not list the city, village or unincorporated area of the candidate in the affidavit portion, it does state the city of Bolingbrook for the candidate at the top of Statement of Candidacy. When read as a whole the "Statement of Candidacy" adequately identifies the residence of the candidate.

The objection that the Nomination Papers contain sheets circulated by individuals whose sheets demonstrate a pattern of fraud and disregard of the Election Code to such a degree that said Nomination Papers and Petition are invalid, and should be invalidated in order to protect the integrity of the electoral process is overruled. The Board finds no evidence to support this objection.

The Board sustains 38 objections to signatures filed with the petition. The Board overrules 6 objections to signatures filed with the petition. The Board incorporates into this Decision and Order the attached tally sheet of the specific findings as to each specific objection. Accordingly the Board finds 40 valid signatures to support the petition which is less than the 59 valid signatures required to cause the name of the candidate to be placed on the ballot.

ORDER

The Electoral Board orders the Will County Clerk to reject the nomination papers of Sinatra Strong and to not print Sinatra Strong's name upon the March 15, 2016 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.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 18TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2015.

VANCY SCHULTZ VOOTS

Will County Clerk

By Chief Deputy Judith L. Wiedmeyer

PAMELA J. MCGUIRE

Will County Circuit Clerk

JAMES W. GLASGOW

Will County State's Attorney

By Mary M. Tatroe, Assistant State's Attorney

ELECTORAL BOARD HEARING

Reconvene Gougis, III vs. Strong Will County Board Member District 3

Objections:

Petition						
page	Line	Reason	County	State's	Circuit	
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1	2	Invalid Signature	Overruled	Overruled	Overruled	
	3	Printed Signature – Invalid			4	1
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	4	Invalid Signature	Sustained	Sustained	Sustained	′ ≤
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	9	Not Registered	Sustained	Sustained	Sustained	2
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