

MARCH 19, 2024 - GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION
RECEIPT OF OBJECTION TO NOMINATION PAPERS

Objection petitions that do not include an original and two copies shall not be accepted.

OBJECTION FILED AGAINST: Patricia "Poppet" Maulding
Name of Candidate

NAME OF OFFICE: Precinct Committee District: 10
If applicable, Include District Number

NAME OF OBJECTOR: Martha Finnhaber

OBJECTOR'S ADDRESS: 1401 N Douglas St Shelbyville, IL 62565

OBJECTOR'S CONTACT INFO (OPTIONAL): 217-549-6186
Phone Number/E-mail

DATE (USE FILE STAMP) AND TIME OF FILING 12:42 AM or PM (Circle One)

FILED
DEC 11 2023

Jesse Cox
SHELBY COUNTY CLERK

COUNTY/DEPUTY CLERK Alexis Walton

**BEFORE THE DULY CONSTITUTED
SHELBY COUNTY OFFICERS ELECTORAL BOARD
FOR THE HEARING AND PASSING UPON OBJECTIONS TO PETITIONS
FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF SHELBY COUNTY REPUBLICAN
PRECINCT COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR "DISTRICT 10" AND/OR SHELBYVILLE 6.**

Martha Firnhaber,)
)
 Petitioner-Objector,)
)
 v.)
)
 Patricia "Poppet" Maulding)
)
 Respondent-Candidate.)

No. **FILED**)
 DEC 11 2023)

Jessie Fox
SHELBY COUNTY CLERK

12:42 PM

OBJECTOR'S PETITION

Introduction

Martha Firnhaber, who shall hereinafter be referred to as "Objector," states as follows:

1. Objector Martha Firnhaber lives at 1401 N. Douglas, City of Shelbyville, County of Shelby, State of Illinois.
2. Objector is a legal and registered voter at that address, which falls within the tenth (10th) District for Shelby County, Illinois.
3. Objector desires that candidates seeking the office of Precinct Committee Member for "District 10" in Shelby County comply with the law, be qualified to hold such office, submit valid nominating papers, and further desires that only qualified candidates appear on the ballot for said office. Objector therefore has an interest in filing this Petition.
4. Objector objects to the purported nomination papers ("Nomination Petition") of Patricia "Poppet" Maulding for the Republican Party nomination for Republican

Precinct Committee Member for Shelbyville 6 in which the Candidate resides.

Objector states that the Nomination Petition papers are insufficient in both fact and law for the following reasons:

Objections

1. **The Candidate's Petitions are invalid because there is no existing District 10 named as Precinct in Shelby County whereas the Candidate named District 10 on her Statement of Candidacy at the top, on the eleventh blank and on the fourth page, Sheet no. 2 on the eleventh blank as the name of the office she is seeking. The Candidate's Statement of Candidacy and second signature page fail to name Shelbyville 6 as the office being sought. There are in fact more than 3 full precincts present in County Board District 10 being Shelbyville 2, Shelbyville 6, Shelbyville 7 and part of Shelbyville 5, whereas simply stating "District 10" or "District #10" fails to specify the office according to the following statute and should invalidate the Statement of Candidacy and the second Signature Page as they contain "Shelby #10" to define the non-existent precinct office for which the Candidate has filed. Candidate's Nomination Petition does not comply with the clear requirements of Election Code 10 ILCS 5/7-10) (from Ch. 46, par. 7-10)**

"Sec. 7-10. Form of petition for nomination. **The name of no candidate for nomination, or State central committeeperson, or township committeeperson, or precinct committeeperson, or ward committeeperson or candidate for delegate or alternate delegate to national nominating conventions, shall be printed upon the primary ballot unless a petition for nomination has been filed in his behalf as provided in this Article in substantially the following form:**

We, the undersigned, members of and affiliated with the party and qualified primary electors of the party, in the of, in the county of and State of Illinois, do hereby petition that the following named person or persons shall be a candidate or

candidates of the party for the nomination for (or in case of committeepersons for election to) **the office** or offices hereinafter **specified**, to be voted for at the primary election to be held on (insert date)."

Candidate's Nomination Petitions, specifically her Statement of Candidacy and the second signature page should, therefore, be stricken and the Candidate's name should not appear on the ballot in the March 19, 2024 Primary Election for the Republican Nomination for Republican Precinct Committee Member for Shelbyville 6 in Shelby County, Illinois.

2. The Candidate's Nomination Petition Pages have failed to substantially provide the required information on her petition pages, whereas the first signature page fails to provide the year in which the election is to be held and the second signature page fails to provide ANY election date at all.

Candidate's Nomination Petition does not comply with the clear requirements of the Election Code 10 ILCS 5/7-10) (from Ch. 46, par. 7-10) as quoted below;

"Sec. 7-10. Form of petition for nomination. **The name of no candidate for nomination**, or State central committeeperson, or township committeeperson, or **precinct committeeperson**, or ward committeeperson or candidate for delegate or alternate delegate to national nominating conventions, **shall be printed** upon the primary ballot **unless a petition for nomination has been filed** in his behalf as provided in this Article **in substantially the following form:**

We, the undersigned, members of and affiliated with the party and qualified primary electors of the party, in the of, in the county of and State of Illinois, do hereby petition that the following named person or persons shall be a candidate or candidates of the party for the nomination for (or in case of committeepersons for election to) the office or offices hereinafter specified, to be voted for at the primary **election to be held on (insert date).**"

Illinois courts have found “a candidate does not substantially comply with the [Election Code] requirements” when that candidate “completely ignores one of the statutory elements.” *El-Aboudi v. Thompson*, 293 Ill.App.3d 191 (4th Dist. 1997). Candidate’s Nomination Petitions, specifically the first and second signature pages should, therefore, be stricken and the Candidate’s name should not appear on the ballot in the **March 19, 2024** Primary Election for the Republican Nomination for Republican Precinct Committee Member for Shelbyville 6 in Shelby County, Illinois.

3. The Candidate’s Nomination Petitions are invalid because the petition sheets were misnumbered with all pages of the packet being numbered 1 through 4, while 1 and 2 being used on the Statement of Candidacy and Loyalty Oath and again on the last blank for the SHEET NO. blank on the signature pages yet another 3 and 4 were used nearby to indicate Nomination Petition page numbers when they were filed, thus creating duplicitous page numbers and confusion.

Pursuant to the Illinois Election Code, 10 ILCS 5/7-10, nomination petitions, “before being filed, shall be neatly fastened together in book form, by placing the sheets in a pile and fastening them together at one edge in a secure and suitable manner, and the sheets shall then be numbered consecutively.” **Illinois courts have determined that the pagination requirement is mandatory**, and that “a candidate does not substantially comply with the [Election Code] requirements” when that candidate “completely ignores one of the statutory elements.” *El-Aboudi v. Thompson*, 293 Ill.App.3d 191 (4th Dist. 1997).

Candidate’s Nomination Petition numbering is an attempt to confuse the pagination of the sheets. Her petitions should, therefore, be stricken.

“Where [the Candidate] made no attempt to comply substantially with the numbering requirement, the failure to do so, as mandated, requires invalidation of his [or her] nominating petition.” *Id.*

The Candidate’s petitions show a complete disregard of the mandatory requirement in the submission of Nominating Petitions. Pagination assures the integrity of the nomination process, and substantial effort to comply is mandated by the Election Code. Candidate’s Nomination Petitions, specifically the third and fourth pages should, therefore, be stricken and the Candidate’s name should not appear on the ballot in the March 19, 2024 Primary Election for the Republican Nomination for Republican Precinct Committee Member for Shelbyville 6 in Shelby County, Illinois.

4. The Candidate’s Petitions contain invalid signatures that should be stricken from the petition sheets. Candidates must present the minimum number of signatures of registered voters in the district in which the candidate has filed.

The objector objects to the following signatures for the following reasons:

1. Packet page 3 also labeled as Petition Page 1; #9 Contains the signature of Kathy Roessler who resides at 827 N. Lodge St, Shelbyville, IL. which lies outside of the Precinct Shelbyville 6 whereas she is not a qualified voter in the same precinct as the Candidate has filed or resides.

2. Packet page 4 also labeled as Petition Page 2:

#3 Contains the signature of Stephanie Shadwell who resides at 212 N. Wood, Shelbyville, IL. which lies outside of the Precinct Shelbyville 6 whereas she is not a qualified voter in the same precinct as the Candidate has filed or resides.

#4 Contains the signature of Kim Wood who resides at 915 W. N. 13th Street, Shelbyville, IL which lies outside of the Precinct Shelbyville 6 whereas she is not a qualified voter in the same precinct as the Candidate has filed or resides.

#5 Contains the signature of Schryll Bernson who resides at 911 W. North 14th Street, Shelbyville, IL. which lies outside of the Precinct Shelbyville 6 whereas she is not a qualified voter in the same precinct as the Candidate has filed or resides.

Candidate's petition signatures should, therefore, be stricken and the Candidate's name should not appear on the ballot in the March 19, 2024 Primary Election for Republican Precinct Committee Member for Shelbyville 6 in Shelby County, Illinois.

5. The Candidate's Petitions are invalid because the petition sheet headings were not uniform when they were filed, whereas numerous discrepancies exist regarding the Candidate's Proper name, nickname, district, precinct and number and date of election.

Pursuant to Section 5-7-10 of the Illinois Election Code, Nomination Petitions must also satisfy the following requirements:

"Each sheet of the petition other than the statement of candidacy and candidate's statement shall be of uniform size and shall contain above the space for signatures an appropriate **heading** giving the information as to **name of candidate** or candidates, in whose behalf such petition is signed; **the office**, the political party represented and place of residence; **and the heading of each sheet shall be the same.**"

The heading of this candidate's petitions are *not* the same; instead, each sheet is different.

- A. The twice numbered sheets contain 2 different locations, the first petition page stating Shelbyville #6 while the other stating Shelby #10 for Precinct Committee Member,
- B. The first Petition page is missing the year in which the election is to be held, while the second Petition page is missing the entire date of the election in which this Candidate seeks to run for office,
- C. The entire Packet including the Statement of Candidacy and both petition pages have various forms of names from " Patricia Maulding" to "Poppet" written above, below and beside names, which all constitutes different information on each sheet. **They are not "the same" as required by statute**, a requirement that, again, helps ensure the integrity of the petition process. Elements mandated by the Election Code that protect election integrity require full, not merely substantial, compliance. *El-Aboudi v. Thompson*, 293 Ill.App.3d 191 (4th Dist. 1997). Candidate's petitions do not comply with the clear requirements of the Election Code. Candidate's Petitions should, therefore, be stricken and the Candidate's name should not appear on the ballot in the March 19, 2024 Primary Election for Republican Precinct Committee Member for Shelbyville 6 in Shelby County, Illinois.


Conclusion

The Nomination Petitions of the Candidate do not comply with the clear and mandatory requirements set forth in the Illinois Election Code.

WHEREFORE, the Objector requests:

- a) A hearing on the Objections set forth herein;
- b) An examination by the County Officers' Electoral Board of the nomination papers of the Candidate;
- c) A ruling that the Candidate's Nomination Petitions are insufficient in law and fact; and
- d) A ruling that the name Patricia "Poppet" Maulding, in any form of proper name or nickname, shall NOT appear or be printed on the ballot for election to the office of Shelby County Republican Precinct Committee Member for Shelbyville 6 in Shelby County, Illinois, to be voted upon in the General Primary Election to be held on March 19, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,


Objector

Objector:

Martha Firnhaber
1401 N. Douglas
Shelbyville, IL. 62565

Verification

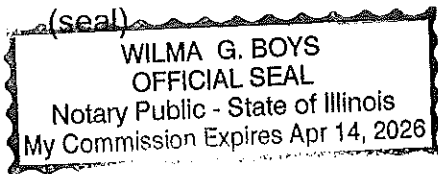
State of Illinois)
)
County of Shelby) SS.

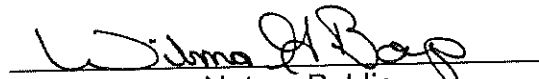
I, being first duly sworn upon oath, depose and state that I have read the above and foregoing Objector's Petition, and that the matters and facts contained therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Martha Firnhaber, Objector

Subscribed and sworn to before me by Martha Firnhaber, objector, this 10th day of December, 2023





Notary Public