

**BEFORE THE MUNICIPAL OFFICERS ELECTORAL BOARD
OF THE VILLAGE OF WORDEN**

John Oltmann,
Petitioner-Objector,

vs.

Chris Stein,
Respondent-Candidate.

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) No. 2024 - 6
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FINDING AND ORDER

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The Electoral Board of the Village of Worden met on December 5, 2025 to consider the objections filed by John Oltmann, hereinafter referred to as Objector, to the nominating documents of Chris Stein, hereinafter referred to as Candidate, to appear on the ballot at the consolidated election to be held April 1, 2025 as a candidate for the office of "Trustee" of the Village of Worden. The Electoral Board was composed of Preston Hall, Village President, Chelsea Paul, Village Clerk and Gregory Garrison as the most senior Trustee of the village. The chairman of the electoral board is Preston Hall. Neither the Objector nor the Candidate expressed any objections to the composition of the Electoral Board as set forth above.

The substance of the objections filed in this matter include the following:

1. Generalized objections to the facts alleged in the Statement of Economic Interest as filed with the office of the County Clerk by Candidate.
2. The Objector alleges that Candidate concealed or misrepresented financial information in the aforesaid Statement of Economic Interest.
3. The Objector alleges that the Candidate refused to provide financial information allegedly required to be disclosed in the aforesaid Statement of Economic Interest.

The circuit court alone, not the local election authority, has original jurisdiction over challenges to the substantial truthfulness, correctness, or completeness of the statement of economic interest. *Welch v. Johnson*, 147 Ill.2d. 40, 588 N.E. 2d 119, 167 Ill. Dec. 989 (1992).

In *Troutman v. Keys*, 156 Ill. App. 3d 247, 509 N.E. 2d 453, 457, 108 Ill. Dec. 757 (1st District 1987), the appellate court ruled that "the Electoral Board has not been given authority to inquire into the truth and accuracy of a statement of economic interests which . . . has been filed." Original jurisdiction will lie in the circuit court to pass on the veracity and sufficiency of the substantive answers and the local state's attorney to bring either a criminal action or a complaint in quo warranto challenging the office holder's right to assume or retain office.

This electoral board shall not entertain testimony, evidence, or argument to suggest or prove that the allegations of a Statement of Economic Interest filed with the office of the County Clerk may

be incomplete, inaccurate, or even fraudulent. Such an inquiry is beyond the jurisdiction or power of the Electoral Board and is irrelevant to issues upon which the Electoral Board may opine.

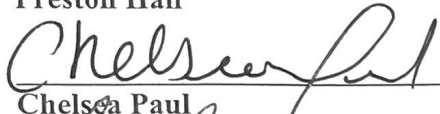
Accordingly, this Electoral Board does not sustain and does deny Objector's objections as filed herein. Therefore, the Village Clerk shall certify the candidacy of Chris Stein for the election of April 1, 2025 to serve as Trustee.

A copy of these Findings and Order has been personally delivered to John Oltman and Chris Stein this 11 day of December 2025. 24



Preston Hall

12-11-24
Date



Chelsea Paul

12-11-24
Date



Gregory Garrison

12/11/24
Date