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SHADOWLYON HENDRICKS REAVES IS ON THE BALLOT FOR MPS SCHOOL BOARD DESPITE WRONGFUL CHALLENGE

(Milwaukee, WI)- Dr. Shadowlyon Hendricks Reaves is on the ballot as a candidate for Milwaukee Public School Board Director, District #1. The Office of the Milwaukee Election Commission wrongly challenged Dr. Hendricks Reaves' nomination papers based on the Executive Director, Claire Woodall-Vogg's refusal to count valid signatures of electors collected by FRIENDS OF SHADOWLYON who braved Milwaukee's winter to sign Dr. Hendricks Reaves' nomination papers.

Dr. Hendricks Reaves submitted 946 signatures on 103 nomination papers to the Office of the Milwaukee Election Commission on January 3, 2023. She received documentation from the Office of the Milwaukee Election Commission confirming she met the 400 to 800 threshold of the required number of valid signatures. However, Ms. Claire Woodall-Vogg only considered the first 800 signatures when determining a "sufficient" number of signatures to place on the ballot. There were 362 valid signatures amongst the first 800 so that is "not sufficient". However, there are 45 valid signatures among the supplemental signatures submitted.

The Election Commission historically allowed supplemental signatures according to a 2020 memo from Wisconsin Election Commission Administrator Meagan Wolf. **"Supplemental signatures are only processed if a candidate's initial submission of nomination papers results in a number of valid signatures which is below the minimum to qualify for ballot access." (pg. 4-5).** Ms. Wolf's memo is consistent with guidance Dr. Hendricks Reaves received when speaking with an election specialist at the Wisconsin Election Commission as well as per a video on their website, <https://elections.wi.gov/candidates/getting-ballot> entitled CANDIDATE BALLOT ACCESS PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATION PAPERS. Beginning at 1 minute, 7 seconds, the election specialist states: **"This one lists the range of 400 to 800 signatures for Board of School Directors for first-class cities. 400 is the minimum number of valid signatures that will get a candidate on the ballot. While 800 is the maximum number of signatures that will be counted. A candidate may turn in more than 800 signatures for this position. But these will be placed in a supplemental stack and not counted during the review unless the minimum number of good signatures fall below 400"**. Further, Wisconsin

Election Commission's CANDIDATE BALLOT ACCESS PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATION PAPERS which is posted on the Milwaukee Election Commission website states, **"WEC advises that candidates and circulators collect signatures totaling well over the minimum number required for ballot placement. This presents the candidate with a buffer of signatures, should any individual signatures be deemed insufficient by the filing officer and protects against signatures being successfully challenged."** Despite this, Executive Director Claire Woodall-Vogg refused to count supplemental signatures and wrongfully denied Dr. Reaves access to the ballot as a candidate for MPS School Board.

Dr. Reaves provided written testimony to the Election Commissioners including Wisconsin State Statutes which states when signatures cannot be counted, as well as Ms. Wolfe's memo, language from the video and the video link. Fortunately, all three Election Commissioners agreed with Dr. Hendricks Reaves contest of Ms. Woodall-Vogg's challenge. "Dr. Hendricks Reaves believes that this incident highlights the importance of one possessing proficient reading and comprehension skills, critical thinking skills, and the ability to communicate effectively. These are the skills that Dr. Hendricks Reaves wants every student in Milwaukee Public School to possess upon graduation and thus another example of why she is needed to serve a MPS Board Director, District #1."

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