

LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

BALLOT ACCESS COMMITTEE

APRIL 2017 REPORT

Presented at the LNC meeting on April 15th, 2017.

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OVERVIEW

About this report

This report is an update to the report presented at the November 2016 LNC Meeting. It only looks at the states in which we do have current activity in 2017.

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Additional Information

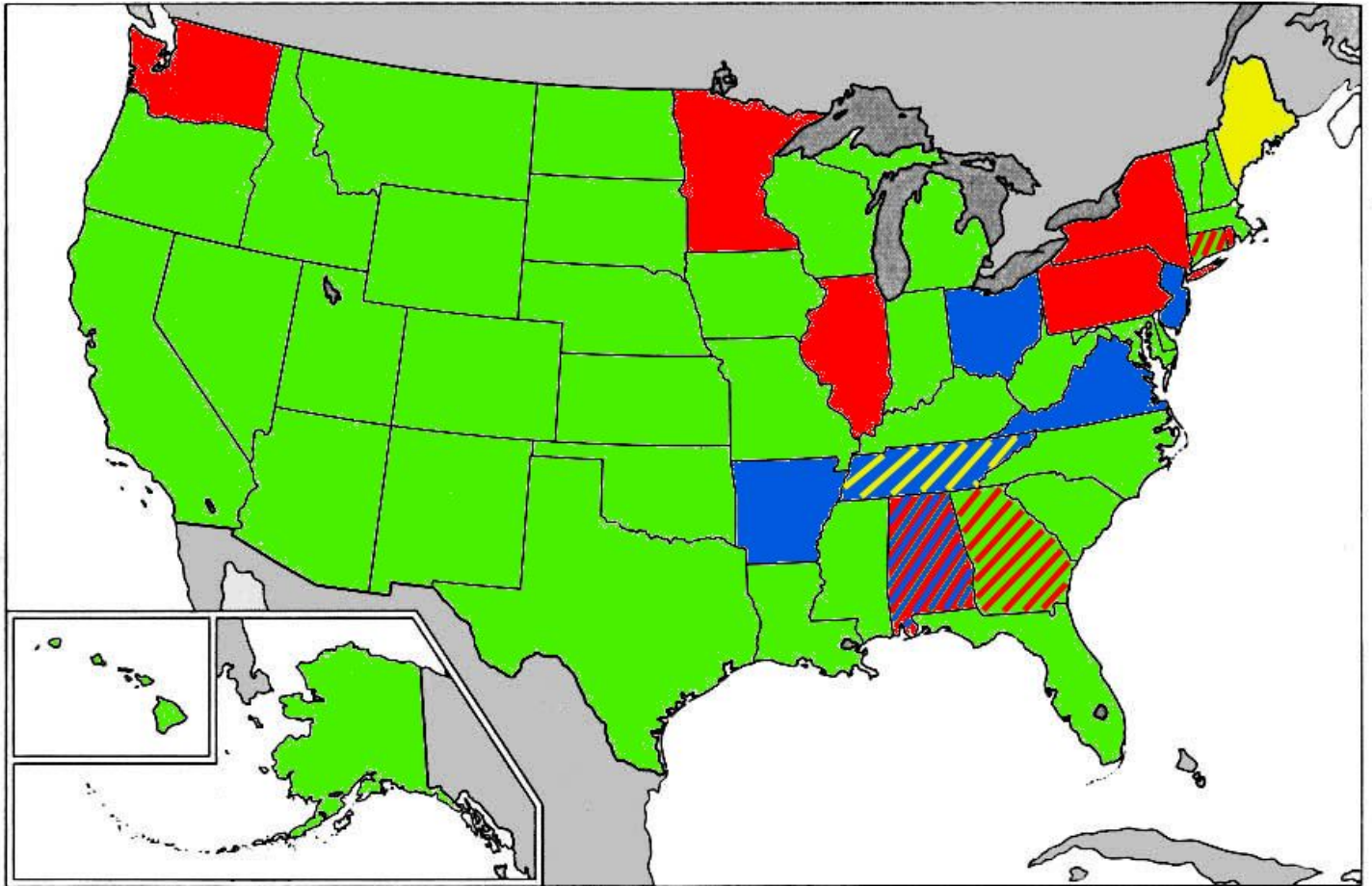
Nicholas Sarwark, LNC Chair

Staff Contributors

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BALLOT ACCESS MAP

Ballot Access as of 4/15/2017



After the 2016 General Election, we have partial or complete ballot access in 37 states plus DC.

States with partial access: Connecticut and Georgia.

States with Top Two: California and Washington.

States without access (active drives in bold): **Alabama^(s)**, **Arkansas**, Illinois, Maine, Minnesota, **New Jersey^(s)**, New York, **Ohio**, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, **Tennessee^(s)**, **Virginia^{(L)(c)}**, and Washington.

States with legal action in progress: Arizona, Illinois, Kentucky, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Tennessee*.

States with pending legislation: Maine, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Tennessee.

(s) = State funded and operated ballot access drive
 (L) = LNC loan
 (c) = Candidate Funded

This is an abbreviated and updated chart originally provided by Bob Johnston. It only list states where we do not have access, what it will take to get access, and what it will take to retain through 2020.

State	Status	To Become A Recognized Party	Retention through 2020
Alabama	No	Must collect signatures equal to 3% of the 2014 gubernatorial vote (35,413). Due 6/5/18. Can start petitioning now. Can also petition for individual county party status and Independent candidates.	To attain party status, statewide or countywide (county-only status) candidate must get 20%. Also districts, etc.
Arkansas	IN PROG	Must collect 10,000 signatures, which are due no later than 1/2/18, and must be collected within a 90-day window. Started 3/27/17.	2018 candidate for Governor must get 3%.
Connecticut	Part	Can run candidates by petitioning (statewide 7,500, US House 1% of 2016 race vote) between 1/2/18 and 8/8/18. Can run 2018 candidates for the US Senate and US House 2nd without collecting signatures.	To attain party status, 2018 candidate for Governor must get 20%, or party must have 20% of the party-registered voters. If a petition candidate gets 1%, can run for that same office in the next election without petitioning.
Georgia	Part	Can run candidates for statewide office. Must collect signatures for non-statewide candidates, the amount equal to 5% of the registered voters in the office's specific district, between 1/11/18 and 7/10/18. Must also pay filing fee equal to 3% of the office's annual salary.	If a statewide candidate receives 1% of the registered voters, can run 2020 statewide candidates without petitioning.
Illinois	No	Must collect 25,000 signatures, between 3/27/18 and 6/25/18.	2018 candidate for Governor must get 5%. If any 2018 non-gubernatorial statewide candidate gets 5%, can run statewide candidates in 2020 without petitioning.
Maine	Unk	New law has been proposed by SoS which would grant access and would retain with 5% for governor or president, or with 10,000 voter registrations.	New law proposed would keep through 2020.
Minnesota	No	Must collect signatures equal to 5% of the 2016 presidential vote (145,821) by 5/31/18. Can also run candidates by petitioning (statewide 2,000; US House 1,000) between 3/18/18 and 5/31/18.	If statewide candidate gets 5%, becomes a recognized party.
New Jersey	IN PROG	Must collect 100 signatures for any non-statewide, 800 for any statewide, due 6/6/17. Petitions available the 1st week of Jan 2017. <i>Drive to place Gubernatorial candidate on ballot in 2017 is not a retention race.</i>	2017 candidates running for the General Assembly must get 10% of the votes cast for the General Assembly.

New York	No	Must collect signatures for individual candidates (statewide 15,000, US House 3,500). For statewide office petitions, at least 100 signatures each must come from of 1/2 of the counties. Can start petitioning for state candidates on 7/10/18, and are due by 8/21/18.	2018 candidate for Governor must get 50,000 votes.
Ohio	IN PROG	Must collect signatures equal to 1% of the 2016 presidential vote (53,254) by 7/4/18. Started 2/6.	2018 candidate for Governor must get 3%.
Pennsylvania	No	Must have 15% of the registered voters. Can run individual candidates by collecting signatures equal to 2% of the votes cast for the 2017 elected official of that office, except for statewide office, which is 5,000 signatures. Can start petitioning 3/7/18, and are due by 8/1/18.	Must maintain 15% of the registered voters.
Rhode Island	No	Must collect signatures equal to 5% of the 2016 presidential vote (22,541). Can start 1/1/18, and are due 6/1/18 if nominating by primary, or 8/1/18 if nominating by convention. Can also run Independent candidates by collecting signatures (statewide 1,000, US House 500), due 7/13/18.	2018 candidate for Governor must get 5%.
Tennessee	IN PROG	Must collect signatures equal to 2.5% of the 2014 gubernatorial vote (33,816), due 5/17/18 if nominating by primary, 8/8/18 if nominating by convention. Can start petitioning now. Can run Independent candidates by collecting 25 signatures, between 1/5/18 and 4/5/18.	2018 gubernatorial candidate must get 5%.
Virginia	IN PROG	Candidates must collect signatures between 1/2/17 and 6/13/17 (statewide 10,000 with 400 from each of the 11 congressional districts; State Senate 250; House of Delegates 125). Started 3/31/17.	2017 statewide candidate must get 10%.
Washington	No	Candidates must either pay a filing fee (federal \$1,740; Governor \$1,669; state \$421), or collect an equal amount of signatures, due between 5/14/18 and 5/18/18.	N/A

LEGAL UPDATES

ONGOING LP LITIGATION

Arizona - The LP is suing to overturn a new law passed in 2015 that increased the burden for Libertarians to get onto the primary ballot. It was intentionally created to harm the Libertarian Party. The main brief in this case was filed in early April.

Illinois - There are 3 cases in Illinois. We have won our case in US District Court against Illinois requiring a slate of candidates in order to run for State or County Executive Branch. There is another case pending with an independent on the 5% requirement for US House.

Kentucky - Kentucky has appealed a ballot access case to SCOTUS. Kentucky only provides one mechanism to transform into a political party - electoral results for President. There is no party petition mechanism. For complete ballot access in a non-presidential year, a nonqualified party would need to collect a total of over 155,000 signatures would be required with each race needing to collect signatures within the district in which the race is being run.

New York - Today, New York has an out of state petitioner ban. This means that you must be a New York voter in order to petition in New York. This is being challenged - Mr. Redpath is a plaintiff - and we believe we will succeed.

Ohio - Ohio asked the Ohio Secretary of State on 12/2 to recognize them as a party based on Johnson election results. Ohio law suggests that a party's candidate does not need a party label in order to gain party status from the outcome of an election for governor or president. Ohio SoS rejected this. LPO filed suit on 12/19. The Ohio Supreme Court ruled against us on 1/20. A motion for reconsideration was filed on 1/24, based on the court using incorrect information. We are waiting on the Ohio Supreme Court since. See: <https://supremecourt.ohio.gov/clerk/ecms/#/caseinfo/2016/1863> Additionally, oral arguments have been scheduled in the Ohio Court of Appeals on another case in Ohio on the Constitutionality of the entire SB193 framework. That case has been dragging on since January 2016.

Pennsylvania - A court case in 2016 reduced the number of signatures, but the judge created a county distribution requirement for state offices. The county distribution requirement is being challenged because it is unconstitutional.

South Dakota - We are currently involved in a lawsuit over early petition deadlines. To get a party on the ballot, a petition must be completed by March. The state created a mechanism for a later deadline for candidates running a race without a primary (president), but using that mechanism means LPSD couldn't run for other offices.

Tennessee - LPTN has sent the TN Secretary of State a letter asking them to recognize the LPTN based on the results for Johnson within TN. We hope that the TN SoS will grant this request, but should consider litigation if the TN SoS rejects this request.

SETTLED LP LITIGATION

Maine - Rather than measure electoral results, Maine law measures how many registered members of a party actually voted in the election. This would be compelling registered Libertarians to vote, even for the candidate of some other party, in order to remain a party. The Johnson/Weld ticket obtained over 5% in the general election, which is the maximum threshold set for limiting ballot access per SCOTUS. We settled the lawsuit, received a refund on attorney's fees, and the proposed law to modify the party requirements has been submitted to the legislature and is presently in committee.

OPTIONS FOR LP LITIGATION

Georgia - The scheme for access definitely protects incumbent parties by creating access petition requirements for every single office and limiting party status to 20% for Governor or President. The 11th Circuit has re-affirmed a lower court decision that minor parties only need 7,500 for president, and SCOTUS has already ruled twice that a state can't require more for smaller offices than for a larger office. Today we are recognized for statewide candidates only. Georgia's scheme is set to create different barriers to entry for each level. Statewide candidate must receive 1% of the vote in order to maintain statewide access. County-level access based on countywide races. It is extremely difficult to qualify candidates for US House. No "minor" party or independent has been on the ballot for US House since the law went into effect in 1943.

Tennessee - In early March, LPTN asked the TN Secretary of State for recognition as a minor party based on Johnson's electoral results. Ohio law suggests that a party's candidate does not need a party label in order to gain party status from the outcome of an election for governor or president. We are waiting on a response from the TN SoS. Meanwhile, LP Tennessee has been lobbying in Nashville for a better law, and has also been collecting signatures on a volunteer basis.

Washington - The Washington Secretary of State played math games with the 2016 election results by counting all write-ins count toward the vote test, not just votes cast for registered (valid) write-in candidates, to keep us under 5%. In 2012, Washington did not to count write-in votes, unless the number of write-ins exceeded the margin between the winner and the runner-up. At this time, no legal action has been taken.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Nebraska - Libertarian State Senator Laura Ebke is pushing a bill to ease ballot access in Nebraska. A party would retain access by having 10,000 registered voters. LPNE currently has 11,000+ registered voters.

Tennessee - The LPTN has been pushing a bill to reduce the number of required signatures for a party petition to 5,000 valid signatures. It made it through the committees in the state house, but the state senate decided to stall on 4/4. Currently the number of signatures required is a percentage of the number of votes cast in a previous election, and the number required currently is 33,844 valid signatures.

Maine - We are waiting on the Maine legislature to pass a bill as a result of our lawsuit. See: http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?paper=HP0228&PID=undefined&snum=128# There's another bill that is more complex to allow to keep minor party status if registration over 5,000 and under 50,000, can nominate by convention. This alternative bill is drafted, but has not yet been introduced.

Oklahoma - A bill is being considered to change the vote test to be 2.5% for any statewide office, and change the period of retention to 4 years.

RETENTION BASED ON VOTER REGISTRATION

Maine - To get ballot access in 2016, we collected over 5,000 new voter registrations for the Libertarian Party. We are looking at new legislation being passed in Maine to give us access through 2020. The law is in flux as we wait for new legislation to pass. If we need to collect 5,000 more registrations, this would likely cost approximately \$35,000, but should keep us with ballot access for a long time. We are waiting for new legislation to pass or fail before taking action.

Nevada - To retain through 2020, a candidate must obtain 1% all votes cast in US House races, or reach 1% voter registration as of 1/1/18. Currently, registration is at 0.93% as of 11/16. To safely reach 1%, we would need to add approximately 2,000 registrations in 2017, at an estimated cost of \$18,000.

RICHARD WINGER, BALLOT ACCESS EXPERT

On Friday, March 31, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals refused the state of Georgia's request to rehear Green Party of Ga v Kemp. This is the case, won in US District Court in 2016, and in the 11th circuit earlier this year, that said 1% (of the number of registered voters) is too hard for president. The US District Court judge had said 7,500 should be the standard until the legislature fixes the problem.

Richard Winger would like to see the Libertarian Party get at least one US House candidate on the general election ballot in every state in 2018, except the two truly impossible states - the top-two states - Washington and California. Other challenges exist to achieve this goal in 2018. Alabama will be a challenge. The LP may win the Arizona case, and if so, it will be okay. Illinois will be a challenge, but the pending litigation may end with win in time to help us. Massachusetts will be a challenge because it is so hard to get a Libertarian on the LP primary ballot.

Ohio Ballot Access case filed in early 2016 in Ohio Court of Appeals challenging SB193 on the grounds that it violates the state constitution. Oral argument has been scheduled for May.

Alaska is considering a Top Two bill. Top Two is devastating to the LP and every other minor party. Hearings have been on-going, and we need to do everything we can to stop it.

In Florida there is a well-funded attempt to influence the Constitution Revision Commission to support Top Two. Every 20 years in Florida, this commission proposes changes that then get placed on the ballot for voter approval. We need LP activists to show up at these meetings and oppose Top Two.

STATE-BY-STATE ANALYSIS

How to read this part of the report

Each report is formatted similarly:

State Name

Summary

A summary of the state drive, when available and applicable.

Links to important information

Ballot Access details

Litigation (if applicable)

Pending legislation (if applicable)

Statewide Access Summary

Petition start date

Petition end date

Number of signatures required

Number of signatures collected

Estimated cost

LNC Budget

Threshold for retention

Last time retained

Alabama

Summary

Multiple candidates would like to run for office in Alabama. LP Alabama retained statewide ballot access in 2000. With that access, almost 60 candidates ran as Libertarians all up and down the ballot in 2002, and it could have been many more if the state party executive director had time to review all of the applications.

If LP Alabama were to receive 20% in any statewide race in 2018, they would retain party access for 2020. In 2014, the candidate for State Treasurer ran unopposed, and a Libertarian candidate would have likely reached the 20% threshold.

LP Alabama currently appears to be pursuing local access.

Elections: <http://www.alabamavotes.gov/>
Minor Party Info: <http://www.alabamavotes.gov/downloads/election/2016/mpp-info-2016.pdf>
Presidential: <http://www.alabamavotes.gov/downloads/election/2016/pba-2016.pdf>
Independent: <http://www.alabamavotes.gov/downloads/election/2016/ic-info-2016.pdf>
Election Law: <http://www.alabamavotes.gov/electionLaw.aspx?sm=voters> (title 17)

Ballot Access:

- To become a recognized party, must collect signatures equal to 3% of those who voted in the most recent race for Governor (2014: 1,180,413; 3% = 35,413), and the signatures must be filed by the date of the primary election (2018: June 5th). Can start petitioning any time after previous election for next general election (§17-6-22).
- Retention: statewide candidate must get 20% (§17-13-40). If a county-wide candidate receives 20%, county gets party status.
- If party not recognized, candidates can run as Ind. Must collect signatures equal to 3% of those who voted in the most recent race for Gov in the jurisdiction running. Sigs are due the date of the primary election (§17-9-3(a)(3)).
- Primary election held on the first Tuesday in June, except in Presidential years, the primary is held on the first Tuesday in March (§17-13-3).

Statewide Access Summary

Petition start date: Immediately

Petition end date: June 6th, 2018 (deadline)

Number of signatures required: 35,413

Number of signatures collected: N/A

Estimated cost: \$110,000 (at \$2/signature)

LNC Budget: N/A

Threshold for retention: 20% for any statewide candidate

Last time retained: 2000; the candidate for *Supreme Ct. Justice, Pl. 2* received 20.16%

Arkansas

Summary

The Arkansas drive began March 27, 2017. In 2015, 15,609 signatures were collected in 68 days, and validity was 76.1%. The pay rate is \$2 per signature, with our standard requirement for validity. The drive is being managed by state chair Michael Pakko.

Elections: <http://www.sosweb.state.ar.us/elections.html>
New Political Party: http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/Documents/New_political_party_2012.pdf
Running For Office (2012): http://www.arkansas.gov/sbec/pdfs/2012_Running_for_Public_Office.pdf
Election Law: <http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/rcode/Default.asp>

Ballot Access:

- To become a recognized party, must collect 10,000 signatures within a 90-day period. Signatures must be filed at least 60 days prior to the end of the filing period (March 1, 2016), which is December 31, 2015 (§ 7-7-205(a)).
- The preferential primary election is on the Tuesday 3 weeks prior to the general primary election (2016: May 24), which is held on the second Tuesday in June of the year of the general election (2016: June 14), (§ 7-7-203(a)(b)).
- Retention: candidate for Governor or President must get 3% (§ 7-1-101.21).
- Can run as an Independent candidate for Congress by collecting signatures (statewide 10,000; US House 2,000; or 3% of the registered voters in the district in which the candidate is running, whichever is less).
- Cannot start collecting until 90 days prior to the deadline, which is noon on March 1 of the election year (§ 7-7-103).
- Can have a candidate for President on the ballot if party isn't recognized, by collecting 1,000 signatures, due by noon on the first Monday in August (2016: August 2) (§ 7-8-302(6)).
- Presidential electors due 2 days after the state convention. Presidential paperwork due Sept 15 of the year of the election (§ 7-8-302(1)).

Statewide Access Summary

Petition start date: March 27, 2017
Petition end date: June 25th, 2017 (deadline)
Number of valid signatures required: 10,000
Number of raw signatures collected: 1,020 (4/1/17)
Estimated cost: \$30,000 (at \$2/signature)
LNC Budget: \$30,000
Threshold for retention: 3% for Governor
Last time retained: N/A

Connecticut

Summary

To gain full party access for 2020, would need petition of 7,500 signatures to place governor on the ballot in 2018, and candidate for governor needs 20% result, or party needs 20% voter registration. We have ballot access to certain races in the state, based on electoral results.

Elections: <http://www.sots.ct.gov/sots/cwp/view.asp?a=3172&q=525432>

Nominating Petition: http://www.sots.ct.gov/sots/lib/sots/electionservices/nominating_petitions_info/frequently_asked_questions_nominating_petition.pdf

Election Law: <http://www.ct.gov/seec/cwp/view.asp?a=3571&Q=425444&PM=1> (title 9)

Ballot Access:

- To become a recognized party, candidate for Governor in the most recent general election must get 20%, or have at least 20% of the party registered voters at the time of the gubernatorial election (§ 9-372(5)).
- If party is not recognized, candidates must obtain signatures equal to at least 1% of the amount of votes for that office in the last general election, or 7,500, whichever is less. Signatures must be from those eligible to vote for the candidate(s) listed on the petition (§ 9-453(d)).
- Can run for same office w/o having to petition if 1% of vote total was received for that race (§ 9-372(6)), (§ 9-379).
- Cannot start to petition until the first business day in January of the election year (§ 9-453(b)), and are due 90 days prior to the general election @ 4 pm (2018: August 8) (§ 9-453(i)).
- If party can run a candidate in a race as a minor party candidate (e.g. 2016 US Senate & US House 2nd), candidate must be nominated 62 days prior to the general election (2018: September 5) (§ 9-452).
- Can substitute (§ 9-460).

Statewide Access Summary

Petition start date: January 2, 2018

Petition end date: August 7th, 2018 (deadline)

Number of valid signatures required: 7,500 (Governor only)

Number of raw signatures collected: N/A

Estimated cost: \$28,125

LNC Budget: N/A

Threshold for retention: 20% for Governor, or 20% registration

Last time retained: N/A

Illinois

Summary

The 2018 candidates guide has not yet been released by the SBOE, but we can assume the same start date (around the 29th of March and lasting 90 days) and signature requirement (25,000). A challenge will be more likely since it is not a presidential election year, so 40,000 is the minimum and 50,000 is the goal. LP Illinois is preparing a full slate, and working with potential candidates for 2018. That ticket would include Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and Comptroller. This drive in 2018 is estimated to cost between \$75,000 and \$125,000, with \$100,000 being a realistic estimate. To retain full access for 2020, the candidate for governor would need to reach 5% in 2018. To get access to statewide races, any statewide candidate would need to reach 5%; the LP accomplished this in 1994.

Elections: <http://www.elections.illinois.gov/>

Candidate Information: <http://www.elections.illinois.gov/Downloads/ElectionInformation/PDF/2016CanGuide.pdf>

Election Law: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=170&ChapterID=3>.

Ballot Access:

- To become a recognized party and for retention, candidate for Governor must get more than 5%.
- If a statewide non-gubernatorial candidate in a general election gets 5%, can run statewide candidates. 5% for any candidate for the US House allows ballot access for that specific seat.
- If the party is not recognized, can run candidates by collecting signatures equal to 1% of those who voted in the last general election, or 25,000, whichever is less. Must also run a full slate of statewide candidates.
- Can also run a congressional candidate by collecting signatures equal to 5% of the votes cast in that district in the preceding general election, or 25,000 signatures, whichever is less. For a general election following a census, 5,000 signatures (10 ILCS 5/10-2).
- Signatures must be collected in a 90-day period prior to the date for candidates to file (2016: March 22) (10 ILCS 5/10-4)), and are due between 134 and 141 days prior to general election (2016: June 20-27) (10 ILCS 5/10-6)).
- A Recognized party must collect signatures (statewide 5,000; US House 0.5% of the votes cast in the preceding general election in that district), due between 106 and 113 days prior to the primary (10 ILCS 5/7-12(1)), which is held on the 3rd Tuesday in March (5/2A-1.1(a)). Can't start petitioning more than 90 days prior to the filing deadline.

Statewide Access Summary

Petition start date: March 29th, 2018 (estimated)

Petition end date: June 27th, 2018 (deadline, estimated)

Number of valid signatures required: 25,000

Number of raw signatures collected: N/A

Estimated cost: \$120,000

LNC Budget: N/A

Threshold for retention: 5% for Governor

Last time retained: N/A

Maine

Summary

Our status is currently unknown in Maine. We have settled our lawsuit, and are now waiting on the state to pass a new law.

Elections: <http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/index.html>

Candidate Info: <http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/2014/guide14.doc>

Election Law: <http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/statutes/21-A/title21-Ach0sec0.html>

Ballot Access (currently):

- To become a recognized party, must enroll 5,000 voters between December 1 of an even-numbered year and December 1 of the following year.
- Must file Declaration of Intent to form a party between Dec. 1 and Dec. 30 prior to enrolling new voters (§21A.303).
- Can also become a political party if candidate for Governor or President gets 5% (§21A.302).
- Retention: must have at least 10,000 party-registered voters participate in next general election, and hold a caucus in each of the 16 counties and a state convention each primary election year.
- Retention lasts for 2 general election cycles (§21A.301).
- To run a candidate for statewide office, must collect 4,000 - 6,000 signatures; US House 2,000 – 3,000. Cannot start before January 1 of the election year (§21A.354.5,6). Will be listed on ballot as “Libertarian” (§21A.354.1).
- No substitution (§21A.354.1.B).
- Presidential petitions due August 1 of the election year with the SOS, and must be checked by the registrar by July 25. Other candidate petitions due June 1 of the election year, and must be checked by the registrar by May 25 (§21A.354.7, 8-A).

Pending legislation: http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?paper=HP0228&PID=undefined&snum=128#

Minnesota

Summary

Party ballot access petition would require approximately 150,000 valid signatures, or 225,000 raw signatures. The cost is estimated to be between \$450,000 and \$675,000, with a realistic number being \$600,000. Alternate mechanisms need to be considered; we can put individual candidates on with fewer signatures per candidate. In order to retain, a statewide candidate in 2018 would need over 5%, or LPMN must have at least 45 candidates for state representative, 23 candidates for state senate, 4 candidates for the US House, and candidates for all statewide offices. Retains major party status for 2 general elections. We may have legal options based on signature requirement. We should look to support LPMN with running candidates for Governor, Attorney General, Auditor, Secretary of State, and US Senate in 2018, as any candidate reaching 5% in any of those races will retain access for the party. Candidate petition signatures must be collected in a 2-week window.

Elections: <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=4>
Candidate Information <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=1783>
Election Law: <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=588#Statutes>

Ballot Access:

- To become a recognized party, must collect signatures equal to 5% of votes cast in the last general election, which must be filed before the close of the primary ballot period (2016: May 31) (2014: 1,973,872 = 98,693), or...
- must have a statewide candidate in the most recent general election receive 5%, or...
- must have at least 45 candidates for state representative, 23 candidates for state senate, 4 candidates for the US House, and candidates for all statewide offices. Retains major party status for 2 general elections. (§ 200.02.sub 7).
- Primary elections held on the second Tuesday in August (2016: August 9) (204D.03).
- If party is not recognized, can run non-Presidential candidates by collecting signatures 144 days prior to the primary (2016: March 18), and must be submitted between 70 and 84 days prior to the primary election (2014: May 17 to May 31) (statewide 2,000; US House 1,000) (204B.08,.09).
- Can collect equal number of signatures in lieu of the filing fee (204B.11.sub 2).
- Can run for president by gathering 2,000 petition signatures between start of primary filing period and 77 days prior to general election (2016: May 18 to August 23) (204B.09(c)).

Statewide Access Summary

Petition start date:
Petition end date:
Number of signatures required: 150,000
Number of signatures collected: N/A
Estimated cost: \$600,000
LNC Budget: N/A
Threshold for retention: 5% or lots of candidates.
Last time retained: N/A

New Jersey

Summary

There is no mechanism for statewide petition access in New Jersey. In 2017, all legislative seats will be up for election, and ballot access is incumbent on all Libertarian candidates for General Assembly receiving 10% of all votes cast statewide for General Assembly. The New Jersey party is in the process of placing a candidate for governor on the ballot in New Jersey. This requires 800 signatures, and they plan to collect and submit approximately 1,600 signatures. There is no known plan to run candidates for General Assembly seats.

Elections: <http://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/index.html>

Candidate Information (2015): <http://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/candidate-petitions.html>

Election Law: http://lis.njleg.state.nj.us/cgi-bin/om_isapi.dll?clientID=2155086&depth=2&expandheadings=off&headingswithhits=on&infobase=statutes.nfo&softpage=TOC_Frame_Pg42 (title 19)

Ballot Access:

- To become a recognized party and for retention, candidates must get 10% of the votes cast for the General Assembly (§ 19:1-1).
- Candidates can get on the ballot by collecting signatures (statewide 800, US House 100) (§ 19:13-5).
- Can have party label on the ballot (§ 19:13-4).
- Can substitute – new candidate must meet signature requirements. Petitions due 64 days prior to general election (§ 19:13-19).
- Primary elections are held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in June (2016: June 7) (19:2-1).
- Signatures for non-Presidential candidates due the day of the primary election at 4 pm.
- Presidential signatures and paperwork due 99 days prior to the general election (2016: August 1) (§ 19:13-9).

New York

Summary

In 2018, LPNY will run candidates for Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General and Comptroller. The four statewide positions can be combined on a single petition form and at least 15,000 valid signatures must be submitted at that time to achieve ballot access for 2018. Once again, LPNY will seek to obtain 25-30,000 raw signatures to withstand any potential challenges. Automatic ballot access will be achieved and maintained for four years only if the Gubernatorial candidate obtains at least 50,000 votes on the Libertarian line. That has never happened in past years. This drive will cost between \$50,000 and \$75,000, with a reasonable estimate being approximately \$60,000. Drive cannot start until 2018. There is an ongoing lawsuit on the use of out-of-state petitioners. Signatures must be collected in a 6-week window.

Elections: <http://www.elections.ny.gov/>
Running For Office (2014): <http://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/download/law/2014RunningForElectiveOffice.pdf>
Election Law: <http://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/download/law/2013NYElectionLaw.pdf>
New federal calendar (2016): <http://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/law/2016FEDERAL-STATEcombinedlegalCALrev2.pdf>

Ballot Access:

- To become a recognized party and for retention, candidate for Governor must get 50,000 votes (§ 1-104.3).
- If party not recognized, candidates must run as Independents. Statewide offices require signatures of 15,000 or 5% of the reg voters, whichever is less (voter reg > 10,000,000 @ 11/10). US House races require 3,500 valid sigs.
- A minimum of 100 signatures must come from at least half of the congressional districts (§ 6-142).
- Circulators must be in-state registered voters. Party registration is irrelevant for independent petitions..
- Only voters registered as the candidate's party can sign a petition for a recognized party candidate (§ 6-140.1.b).
- Signatures must be filed 11 weeks prior to the general election (2016: August 23) (§ 6-158.9), and cannot begin collecting until 6 weeks prior to the filing deadline (July 12) [state candidates only] (§ 6-138.4).
- Federal candidates started petitioning June 21, and completed petitions were due August 2.

Litigation:

Statewide Access Summary

Petition start date: 2018 (bill might change exact start date)
Petition end date: 6 weeks after start date
Number of valid signatures required: 15,000
Number of raw signatures collected: N/A
Estimated cost: \$60,000
LNC Budget: N/A
Threshold for retention: 50,000 votes for Governor on Libertarian line
Last time retained: N/A

Ohio

Summary

In 2014, LP Ohio lost ballot access due to shenanigans orchestrated by the Republican Party and allies of Governor John Kasich. Various cases have been litigated in both state and federal courts, and the courts have not provided relief. Legal options are still actively being pursued. The ballot access drive began on 2/6/17 and there are over 20,000 signatures collected at this time. Validation efforts are consuming significantly more volunteer time than was originally expected. Petitioning has been slowed, and petitioners sent to other drives, to allow LP Ohio to get caught up on fundraising and validation, and to reassess strategy of this massive 100,000 raw signature petition drive. Full petitioning efforts are planned to resume in early June. This drive was originally estimated to cost between \$159,000 and \$238,500, with \$200,000 being the current budget; however, we believe it will require approximate \$240,000 to complete this drive successfully. The LPO's 2018 candidate for governor would need 3% to retain through 2022.

Elections: <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections.aspx>

Election Law: <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/35> (title 35)

Ballot Access:

- To become a recognized party, must collect signatures equal to 1% of the votes cast for either Governor or President in the most recent general election (2014: 3,001,794; 1% = 30,056).
- At least 500 signatures must come from half of the congressional districts.
- Party petitions must be filed more than 125 days before the general election (2016: July 6).
- Retention: candidate for Governor or President must get 3%. Party is recognized for 2 general election cycles (§ 3517.01(A) (1)).
- The primary is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May, except in Presidential election years held on the second Tuesday after the first Monday in March (2016: March 15) (§ 3501.01(E)(1)(2)).
- Can run Independent candidates for statewide office by collecting 5,000 signatures (15,000 maximum). Independent Presidential candidate must file 90 days prior to the general election (2016: August 10); non-Presidential candidates must file by 4 pm the day prior to the primary election (§ 3513.257).
- Presidential paperwork due 90 days prior to the general election (2016: August 10) (§ 3505.10).

Litigation: <https://supremecourt.ohio.gov/clerk/ecms/#/caseinfo/2016/1863>

Litigation:

Statewide Access Summary

Petition start date: 2/6/17

Petition end date: June 2018 (deadline)

Number of valid signatures required: 55,000 (approx)

Number of raw signatures collected: 20,727 (4/5/17)

Estimated cost: \$240,000 (originally estimated at \$200,000)

LNC Budget: \$100,000 (\$50,000 spent, \$50,000 remaining)

Threshold for retention: 3% for Governor or President

Last time retained: 2012

Rhode Island

Summary

A full party ballot access petition for 2018 requires 23,208 valid signatures. That should cost between \$70,000 and \$140,000, with a likely cost of \$120,000 to complete. We can place a Gubernatorial candidate on the ballot with only 1,000 signatures. We can't start until 2018. The candidate for Governor would need to receive 5% to retain access through 2020. The Moderate Party currently has access in RI. LP has never run for Governor in RI in the past, due to bad state laws. New laws make this far easier.

Elections: <http://www.elections.ri.gov/>
Running For Office (2014): <http://sos.ri.gov/documents/elections/RunForOffice2014.pdf>
Election Law: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE17/INDEX.HTM> (title 17)

Ballot Access:

- To become a recognized party and for retention, candidate for Governor or President must get 5%, or must collect signatures equal to 5% of the votes cast for either Governor or President in the most recent general election (2014: 322,324; 5% = 16,116).
- If party wishes to nominate candidates by primary, signatures must be filed by June 1; to nominate by convention, due by August 1 (§ 17-1-2(9)).
- All candidates must collect signatures for office (Independent President, Governor and US Senate 1,000; US House 500) (§ 17-14-7).
- Signatures are due at 4 pm 60 days prior to primary election (2016: July 15), except for Independent Presidential candidates (see below) (§ 17-14-11).
- Can run an Independent Presidential candidate; must have up to 4 electors file by the last Mo/Tu/We in June (2016: June 27-29), and must collect 1,000 signatures 60 days prior to the general election (2016: September 9).
- Independent candidates can get a party label on the ballot (§ 17-19-9.1).
- Independent Presidential elector nomination papers issued within 4 days of the close for filing Declarations of Candidacy (2016: July 4) (§ 17-14-4).

Statewide Access Summary

Petition start date: 2018
Petition end date:
Number of valid signatures required: 23,208 (or 1,000)
Number of raw signatures collected:
Estimated cost:
LNC Budget:
Threshold for retention: 5% for Governor
Last time retained: N/A

Tennessee

Summary

Under current law, a party petition in Tennessee requires 33,844 signatures, meaning the cost would be between \$101,532 and \$152,298, with a realistic estimate of \$125,000. LP Tennessee has asked the Secretary of State to recognize Johnson's electoral result and make them a recognized minor party. Simultaneously, they have been lobbying for a new law which would reduce the number of required signatures to 5,000. This law made it through the State House committees, but the State Senate has postponed the bill until 2018. LP Tennessee has also begun a volunteer petition drive.

Elections: <http://www.state.tn.us/sos/election/>

Election Law: <http://www.lexisnexis.com/hotttopics/tncode/> (title 2)

Ballot Access:

- To become a recognized party, must collect signatures equal to 2.5% of the votes cast for Governor in the most recent gubernatorial election (2014: 1,343,936; 2.5% = 33,599) (§ 2-1-104(24)).
- If party wishes to participate in primary election, must submit petitions on the third Thursday 3 months prior to the primary at noon (2016: April 21). To participate only in the general election, petitions must be submitted on the third Thursday 3 months prior to the general election at noon (2016: July 21) (§ 2-13-107(c)).
- Retention; statewide candidate within last 4 years must get 5% of the votes cast for Governor in the most recent gubernatorial election (§ 2-1-104(31)(a)).
- Can run as Independent candidates, by collecting 25 signatures per electoral district. 275 signatures minimum for Presidential candidate, with 25 signatures from each electoral district (§ 2-5-101(b)(1)).
- Non-Presidential signatures due at noon on the first Thursday in April (2016: April 7) (§ 2-5-101(a)(1)).
- Cannot start collecting signatures until 90 days prior to the filing deadline (non-Pres: January 8, 2016; Presidential: May 20, 2016) (§ 2-5-102(b)(5)).
- Presidential sigs and paperwork due the 3rd Thursday 3 months prior to the election, noon (2016: August 18) (§ 2-5-101(a)).
- State and fed primaries are held the first Thursday in August of an even-numbered year (2016: August 4) (§ 2-1-104(26)).
- No substitution (§ 2-5-102(b)(1)).

Statewide Access Summary

Petition start date: Immediately

Petition end date: August 2018 (deadline)

Number of signatures required: 33,844

Number of signatures collected: Approx 4,000 volunteer signatures per LPTN

Estimated cost: \$125,000

LNC Budget: N/A

Threshold for retention: 5% of the votes cast for governor in race for any statewide office.

Last time retained: N/A

Virginia

Summary

To gain access for 2018 and 2020, a statewide candidate must obtain 10% in 2017. The candidates must petition separately, each with 10,000 signatures and a distribution requirement of at least 400 per Congressional District. Virginia has never had ballot access, because there is no party petition in Virginia, and the LPVA has never earned 10% of the vote in a statewide election. In 2017, there will be elections for Governor, Lt. Governor (which is not a ticket) and Attorney General. Each office would require a separate petition, with 10,000 valid sigs needed for each petition. All 100 seats in the Virginia House of Delegates will be up in 2017. In 2018, there will be a US Senate election and US House elections.

Elections: <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/>

Election Law: <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+TOC2402000> (title 24.2)

Ballot Access:

- To become a recognized party, statewide candidate must get 10% in either of the last 2 statewide general elections in which a statewide office was on the ballot.
- Party must have a state central committee and chair for 6 months prior to the filing of any nominee for office (§ 24.2-101).
- If the party is not recognized, can run candidates by collecting signatures: statewide 10,000, with 400 from each congressional district; US House 1,000.
- Can start collecting on Jan 1st of year of election for Presidential candidates, Jan 2nd for all other candidates (§ 24.2-506).
- Signatures are due the second Tuesday in June (2016: June 14) (§ 24.2-507).
- If party is not recognized, candidates can have an "L" by their name on the ballot by having the state recognize the party's existence 6 months preceding the filing for office (§ 24.2-613).
- Can run a candidate for President by collecting 5,000 signatures, with 200 from each congressional district, due by noon 74 days prior to the general election. Can get full party label on ballot, as long as party has a state central committee, bylaws, and officers within 6 months of the petition filing (§ 24.2-543).
- Presidential paperwork and signatures are due by noon 74 days before the general election (2016: August 26) (§ 24.2-542).

Statewide Access Summary

Petition start date: April 1, 2017

Petition end date: June 13, 2017 (deadline)

Number of signatures required: 10,000 (per statewide office)

Number of signatures collected: 1,500 (estimated 4/9/17)

Estimated cost: \$37,500

LNC Budget: \$25,000 loan to state party

Threshold for retention: 10% for any statewide office

Last time retained: N/A

MEETING MINUTES

The Ballot Access Committee is charged with ensuring successful ballot access drives. As such, some content is redacted because it is sensitive in nature, either from a strategic or legal perspective. Those sections have been removed and replaced with **[REDACTED]**.

January 10th, 2017

Everyone present except Mark Axinn (planned absence). Oliver Hall will join later. Old minutes approved without objection.

2017. Ohio - over 55k valid, over 80k raw needed. Ohio has legal action and do not want to start paid drive until February 1. Volunteer drive there has started. Bill Redpath looked at Ohio post offices on google earth. Encourage better volunteer effort. 2-3k raw per week should be doable with 4 paid petitioners. Will Arkansas (and Virginia?) happening at the same time present a problem for keeping momentum going? Redpath has contact with petitioners based in Ohio. Plan for 2.00 for in-state, 2.50 out of state. State party asked if they can pay every other week. Consensus is probably not as far as it being OK with petitioners, but they can send signatures in by mail (logistics issues with getting around to different parts of the state).

Winger: could try to do MN, maybe get on in one county and create basis for lawsuit.

VA: One of the potential Gov candidates has pulled out. One additional is still a possibility. Possible candidates for other offices but may be too difficult to do multiple petitions of 10k valid each.

AR: 90 days, probably can be done in 60. Most likely start in March. Chris Thrasher has some potential funding and possible Gov candidate.

Oliver Hall on the call now.

LPKY v Grimes; got extension on cert petition til Feb 24.

LPME v Dunlap: State will work on settlement that will have SOS draft favorable ballot access legislation and help push it through legislature.

Ohio: US Supreme court denied cert in LPO v Husted. Parallel case moving ahead in state court. Precedent in 1912 and 1996, independent group of electors got the required percentage and formed a ballot qualified party and 6 other states have similar provisions. When the law was written it was the only way to form a party. BAN has brief <http://ballot-access.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/RELATORSReplyBRIEFfinal.pdf>

CP of PA v Cortez (includes LP and GP) - we "won" but then unconstitutional distribution requirements imposed which are now being challenged. The distribution requirement was not related to the original subject of the lawsuit.

CP of AZ v ??? - ongoing challenge of primary election requirements. More evidence now as a result of 2016 election. In some cases signature requirements are 30%. 5% is upper limit based on prior rulings.

SD - case over March deadline.

Winger: lobbying efforts going on in various states. MN, IL, IN, ME, TX, AL, others?

Next meeting: TBD

February 23, 2017

Call to order at 5:34 PM EST

Marsh, Thrasher, Moellman, Frankel, Redpath present.

Previous meeting's minutes approved without objection. (Motion: Marsh; Second: Redpath)

Virginia: Mr. Redpath notes there is currently no gubernatorial candidate. 10,000 valid signature requirement, deadline second Tuesday in June. Early May suggested as latest drive starting time.

-Mr. Axinn joined.-

Ohio: Mr. Moellman reports from the ground that things are "a little bumpy" with the state party. Signatures are coming in faster than they can be verified. LP Ohio wishes to slow the drive down. Currently around 5,000 signatures in hand, with nearly \$12,000 spent. Production expected to reach 4,000 signatures per week. LP Ohio can only verify 1,000 per week.

Additional Ohio Discussion Later in Call

Mr. Frankel mentioned the reason for the 100% validity checks is because of checking congressional districts. Suggests targeting specific areas only to ease the burden.

Mr. Winger noted Ohio Supreme Court has not yet responded. Mr. Moellman **[REDACTED]**.

Arkansas: No new information as of this meeting.

Alabama: Desire for a Party petition drive is there, but no funds to do so. Would require 35K+ valid signatures.

New Business:

Tennessee: State party has filed letter with Secretary of State declaring party status. Response expected in 2 to 4 weeks.

-Mr. Winger joined.-

Additional Ohio Discussion

Next Meeting: Thursday March 23rd @5:30pm EST

Motion to Adjourn (Motion: Redpath; Second: Axinn)

Meeting Adjourned @5:51 PM

March 23, 2017

On the call: Moellman, Winger, Frankel.

Axinn and Marsh planned absences. Thrasher also not on the call yet. Wes Benedict and Michael Pakko have joined the call. Redpath is now on the call so quorum is reached.

Winger moves approval of last meeting's minutes. Redpath seconds. Approved without objection.

Arkansas - starting Sunday or Monday. 2.00/sig. 10k valid, 15k raw. May be done in a month or less due to number of petitioners going.

Ohio - suspending or slowing down drive until LPO raises money. About 20k in hand expected by this weekend. 3/25 semi-cutoff. Aim to resume in June. Mr. Winger says LPO Attorney Mark Brown thinks it is possible that we will get a reversal from the 6th circuit this next week. **[REDACTED]**. Lauren Daugherty working with LPO **[REDACTED]**. LPO also looking at several potential commission fundraisers. Some volunteer petitioning expected but has not really kicked off yet. Farmers

markets have been good. Ken knows 2 of the 3 major donors and is willing to help get the pledges fulfilled. 3 potential commission fundraising firms being evaluated but are not yet hired. Brett Bittner as Region 3 rep will help with fundraising.

Virginia - still may get a candidate. **[REDACTED]**. 75 days til deadline June 13. 10k valid needed.

TN - New team elected. Very active group. Pursuing legal, legislative and volunteer petition drive. Letter sent to SOS, **[REDACTED]**. Legislative bill to reduce to 5k valid (from 35k valid). 4-5k sig in hand. Lobby day planned. May consider LNC chip in at the next meeting. Committee hearings in 5 days. "Fiscal note" requiring exorbitant payment for primary eliminated from the bill. Would have otherwise cost quarter million\$ per election. One more round in the legal fight before trying to get help from LNC. Ken talking to them about once a week.

AL - will probably not go for statewide access. Will try to do counties. Frankel trying to get it kicked up to statewide. Same signatures may be used for either one as long as they are kept separate and not turned in yet. **[REDACTED]**. Possibility of special election for US Senate; legal fight over it now. Josh Tuttle is new chair.

Report for next LNC meeting - no monster report again; will just report on the states where we are working for access for 2018.

Winger: Wants LP candidates on the ballot in 48 states for US House in 2018 **[REDACTED]**. Wes: LPHQ will help. Redpath agrees with this goal. GA has a very high requirement. **[REDACTED]** is helping them raise funds.

Thrasher is on the call, did not announce himself earlier. Will help recruit candidate in RI and other states.

Next meeting Sun Apr 9 5:30 pm eastern.

Redpath, motion to adjourn. No objection.

March 29, 2017 Special Meeting for Ohio

On the call: Paul Frankel, Ken Moellman, Richard Winger, Scott Pettigrew, Ed Marsh, Wes Benedict, Bill Redpath

7:33 PM - Call to order

7:34 PM - Roll call

7:35 PM - Where we are now?

-- Ohio SC ruling on reconsideration yet? Can we go federal?

No ruling in Ohio court case. **[REDACTED]**. No answer on going federal at this time.

-- 20,249 raw sigs collected of 100,000 target.

Those are only the paid sigs. Ken has not tracked the volunteer sigs. Tricia Sprinkle has that info but is not on the call (at least yet). State party will hold seminars on petitioning. Volunteer drive will be gearing up more.

-- All but 3 petitioners done - others told might be done this week

Andy planning to go to Arkansas soon. Zach and Lori Stacy producing signatures. Ohio would like to come to a full stop due to validation lag and because signatures may not be checked until next year by SOS. Can we litigate about the issue of signatures that were valid at the time of signing but no longer are when they are checked later? Ken recommends getting an opinion from Mark Brown and/or Oliver Hall for an opinion on this. Richard Winger suggest consulting with initiative proponents on this. Question as to whether the checking is done in the same way on initiatives and party petitions.

Competition for petitioners will increase as time goes on and may drive up prices - is there a way to calculate the signature attrition rate? Also, Ohio has a cap on how we many submit; 3 times the requirement.

-- Total volunteer hours to date: 257.5
----- Coordination hours: 97 hours
----- Validation hours: 160.5 hours for approx 5,000 sigs

Not counting unknown volunteer hours actually spent petitioning. Validation rate translates to about 30 sig per hour. 100% validation to find congressional district. **[REDACTED]**

Wes: have the rules changed since 2007 when we last did one? Ken: yes. New law that passed later. PF: I do not remember CDs being on 2007 forms. **[After meeting, old forms confirmed to not contain CD]**

-- Ohio pledge problems

[REDACTED]. LPO needs to catch up in their end and would prefer national stop trying to raise money for Ohio ballot access until then. Lauren Daugherty, Brett Bittner and Ken Moellman willing to help Ohio with fundraising efforts. Ohio wants to make sure the national and LPO efforts don't undercut each other. Wes: **[REDACTED]**; will coordinate better in the future.

[REDACTED]

Ohio legal donor limit about \$39k/yr.

Wes: backup plan for 2020?

Scott: fewer signatures because basis will be gov turnout vs presidential
Tradeoff is that the retention will be the presidential race rather than the gov race
If all else fails there is also the 5k sig independent presidential petition.

-- LNC paying too much - \$2.50/sig - will run over budget

200k original intended budget

Wes: Validity provisions being enforced

Ken recommends rehiring in order of validity

Ken: 10,000 volunteer signatures would make up the shortfall, if no massive decay in validity **[REDACTED]**

7:45 PM - What have we learned? (8:00)

-- Validation cannot be kept up with volunteers
----- Estimated required: 3,210 manhours total for validation
----- Estimated required: 479 manhours for coordination
----- Bad validity is unacceptable

Burns out volunteers; start enforcing termination of low validity contractors

-- No Sub-Contractors!

Validity of subs is lower. Need to hire people that can be trusted to not hire subs **[REDACTED]**.

----- We don't need that many people anyway

7:55 PM - Where do we go from here? (8:15)

-- LNC help for LPO fundraising
-- LPO outreach efforts - county fairs, etc.

Most require that you stay within the booth, not wander around.
Comfest, Pride in Columbus and Cincinnati, sports events, post office list.
Ken can help in SW Ohio.

-- When do we want to be done? When can we be done?

Ohio wants to wrap up by mid December 2017. Drop dead date is July 2018. **[REDACTED]**
Ohio plan for 5 sprints of 20k sig each over 10 months. Volunteers overwhelmed by 100% validation. Call for out of state volunteers to help with validity? Frankel suggestions: some petitioners may help with their own validity; some volunteers could help with rides rather than validating; door to door effort to complete some districts?

Validator system is online. Was used in Ohio in presidential drive and in some other states. The 100% validation and CD makes validity checking 4 times slower; 2 minutes per sig vs 30 seconds. **[REDACTED]**.

-- When do we restart?

Pettigrew: restart at slower rate with fewer petitioners, maybe in August.

Tricia Sprinkle is now on the call. Suggests June.

Ken: Arkansas (and VA if they have one) will wrap up in June. Would be good to transition people back to Ohio then. Rate may go up if we wait longer after that.

County fairs start around July. June - community fests.

Frankel: farmers markets.

-- Need to focus petitioners on non-split counties - How effect rate?

No answers at this time but several suggestions above.

Richard Wingers suggests letter to the editor/board of editors campaign to make public aware of OH Supreme Court case.

Pettigrew: may not want to press the court too much in case they are considering reconsideration.

Ken: National wants to keep going **[REDACTED]**. LPO wants full stop.

Wes: national donors may want to give to OH, but not if we do a full stop.

Slowdown.

LPO to get legal questions to counsel.

8:15 PM - Adjournment (8:40)

Next regular meeting of the committee is scheduled for Sunday April 9th at 5:30PM ET.

March 29, 2017 Pre-LNC Meeting

Meeting called to order a 5:33PM

On the call: Moellman, Winger, Frankel, Redpath, Marsh, Thrasher

Marsh motion to approve previous two meetings notice. Seconded by Redpath and Winger. Approved without objections.

Reviewing Draft Report.

Adding top two states as a category for the ballot access map.

Adding states to litigation list: NY (out of state petitioner ban), PA (county distribution), SD (deadline)

OK: legislation to ease vote test to any race from top of ticket is making headway, would also make retention 4 years instead of 2

NE: Laura Ebke's bill to add voter registration to retention test

ME: 2 bills introduced or to be introduced. Hoping for bill that will us nominate by convention. Primary petition is difficult. Bill drafted but not yet introduced.

GA: Other parties won lawsuit against presidential qualifying petition being too difficult. Previous precedent indicates that US House petition can't be more difficult than presidential. Should be good grounds for lawsuit.

PA; Waiting on bill to be introduced which would hopefully fix the 15% of voter registrations to be considered minor party as well.

WA: May have missed opportunity to lower vote test.

OH: Another case is moving along to challenge 2013 law. Case was stuck, finally got a hearing date.

OH: Meeting today to decide on fundraising plan. Already moving forward with candidate recruitment.

RI: Possible plan to take over Moderate Party ballot access, or get independent gov candidate with LP label on with 1k sig and retain thru voter percentage. Ballot layout improved.

VA: probably around 1500 signatures so far; DMV permission letter. Gov candidate made loan to campaign, around 15k. Drive started around April 1.

Alaska and Florida have strong top two only push efforts.

MT: Court cut number of signatures in a special election way down

Next meeting to be scheduled when appropriate