

**Report to the Libertarian National Committee**  
concerning the  
**2016 Statewide Candidates ballot access drive in Illinois.**

In order to ensure that the Libertarian Party is represented on the 2016 ballot, the Libertarian Party of Illinois (hereafter referred to as the LPI) makes this appeal to the Libertarian National Committee (hereafter referred to as the LNC) for funds in the amount of \$50,000 to assist in our efforts to gather petition signatures for candidates for US Senate and the executive offices of the state of Illinois.

The state-wide offices that are to be determined in the 2016 election include one State of Illinois executive officer, the Comptroller. There are three federal offices to be decided as well. These are a Senator from Illinois, as well as President and Vice President of the United States.

In their October 2015 issue, Ballot Access News referred to Illinois as the second toughest state in the nation for ballot access. The seventh circuit is currently reviewing a Libertarian Party lawsuit against the state concerning the stringent laws we face when trying to get candidates on the ballot, and how, according to a recent ruling for a similar lawsuit in Indiana, they “deprive voters of an effective voice”. We hope that this and future rulings will help the Libertarian Party grow and thrive here in Illinois. Until then, getting candidates on the ballot is no small task.

The signature requirement for state-wide candidates is 25,000. They can only be collected between March 29th and June 20th, 2016. Illinois law allows any citizen of the state to challenge any signature turned in. A challenged signature is stricken unless defended by the LPI during a hearing at the State Board of Elections. For this reason, we must get extra signatures to ensure that 25,000 valid signatures remain after challenges. Our target for this election cycle is 40,000 total signatures.

During the 2012 Presidential campaign the LNC contributed over \$100,000 because paid petitioners were paid \$2.50 per signature. We are going to offer petitioners the same rate as 2012. The LPI has committed to raise 14,000 signatures from volunteers and provide \$16,500 for additional signatures and administrative costs.

By asking for \$50,000, the LPI estimates we will buy 20,000. LPI members can contribute 14,000 more and have committed \$15,000 to secure an additional 6,000. The LPI has also committed \$1,500 for administrative costs. This totals the 40,000 signatures we will need to ensure Libertarians are on the ballot in 2016.

Any assistance the LNC can provide will be greatly appreciated.

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