

LIBERTARIAN PARTY BALLOT ACCESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Libertarian National Committee meeting

Orlando, Florida

November 14-15, 2015

Dear Colleagues:

The following memo addresses petitioning opportunities for the LNC in 2015 and 2016.

I want to thank Richard Winger and Bob Johnston, LP of Maryland Chair and an Independent Contractor to the LNC, for their assistance in updating this report.

We currently have ballot access for our 2016 Presidential ticket in the following 31 states: AK, AR, AZ, CA, CO, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IN, KS, LA, MD, MI, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NM, NC, ND, OR, SC, TX, UT, VT, WV, WI & WY.

I will now address the other 19 states and DC:

AL: The LP can start a party petition anytime (39,975 valid sigs), but I presume that we will do an Independent petition for 5,000 valid sigs in 2016 after the Presidential nomination. I budget \$15,000.

CT: 7,500 valid sigs in 2016 for President. The LPCT is working with the ACLU to possibly litigate the out-of-state petitioner ban in CT. This drive will likely need some subsidization from the LNC. I budget \$25,000.

DC: I estimate a 4,600 valid sig petition drive for President in 2016. I budget \$15,000 from the LNC.

IL: 25,000 valid sig petition drive for President & US Senate in 2016. Attached is the LPIL petition drive plan, in which the LPIL is requesting \$50,000 from the LNC. This less than the \$66,500 spent by the LNC in 2014.

IA: 1,500 valid sig petition drive for President. This required subsidization in 2012 from the LNC. Hopefully not in 2016.

KY: Only state that depends on the vote for President only to remain on the ballot. The LPKY is about to file a lawsuit is about to be filed on that issue, and will argue that because the LPKY has almost 5,000 voter registrations, it should not have to do a 5,000 valid sig petition drive to qualify for the ballot. Nonetheless, we should plan for a possible 5,000 valid sig petition drive in 2016. I budget \$15,000 in 2016.

ME: The LPME is working with Scott Kohlhaas in a voter registration drive. The LPME needs 5,000 registered voters to become an officially recognized political party in Maine, which would give the LPME ballot access. As of about November 1, the LPME had about 6,000 registrations. This registration drive has to conclude by December 1, 2015.

But, to stay on the ballot after the 2016 election, the LPME needs to have 10,000 registered voters by November 8, 2016, who also vote in the 2016 General Election , to maintain party ballot status after the 2016 General Election.

MA: We will need to do a 10,000 valid sig petition drive for President after Memorial Day 2016. Deadline: August 1, 2016. Budget: \$25,000. I am working with Christina Crawford of the LPMA, who is working diligently to maximize the number of volunteer signatures and financial donations from LPMA members.

Please note that if we had party status in MA, we would not have to petition at all to get our Presidential ticket on the ballot there.

MN: A 2,000 valid sig petition drive for President after the Memorial Day 2016 weekend convention. I will plan on this being done by the LPMN.

NH: 1,500 valid sigs in each of two congressional districts (3,000 valid sigs total). I have not seen anything out of the LPNH recently that would indicate that it could handle this petition drive on its own. I budget \$15,000 in 2016.

NJ: 800 valid sigs after Memorial Day 2016. Although the LNC needed to subsidize in 2012, I would hope they could do this on their own in 2016.

NY: We will need 15,000 valid sigs from early July to mid-August for our Presidential ticket in 2016. I budget \$30,000 from the LNC.

OH: The LPOH is still in court regarding Ohio's ballot access laws. The LPOH is starting a party petition that is due in July 2016. I have told the LPOH that I will assume responsibility for 750 gross sigs, that either I gather or give money for, if I think there is a credible plan for getting a party petition done. I have told Tricia Sprankle, LPOH Political Director, that many other LPOH members will have to match my pledge to the LPOH in order for a credible plan to be in place for a party petition.

We should see how this litigation plays out before considering what to do with Ohio for 2016. I have budgeted \$10,000 in 2016 to assist the LPOH with an Independent presidential petition that would require 5,000 valid sigs. Ohio permits substitution on an Independent petition, so an Independent petition can be started now and circulated with a party petition.

OK: After years of lobbying by the LP and a coalition of ballot access reformers, the Oklahoma legislature finally passed a law this year that reduces the number of signatures of needed to qualify a political party for the ballot from 41,242 to 24,745. That's a 40% reduction in the number of valid signatures needed to get on the ballot in Oklahoma.

We have an ongoing petition drive with about 13,000 gross sigs. Because there will likely be an update on the LPOK petition drive in the few days before our meeting, I will give an oral report update on this drive in Orlando.

Future expenditures on this drive should be covered by the 2015 LNC budget.

PA: We are looking at about a 21,681 (the number may go up a little, but should remain under 22,000) valid sig petition drive in PA starting in February 2016. We are probably looking at an expenditure of \$70,000.

There is a ballot access bill (SB 495) in a PA Senate Committee that would base party ballot access on the number of party voter registrations. The LPPA would qualify for the ballot based on the criteria in this bill. The bill's chief sponsor, Sen. Mike Fulmer, is Chair of that committee.

RI: A 1,000 valid sig petition drive. I don't think the LPRI can do this themselves. We are probably looking at an LNC expenditure of \$2,500.

SD: The LPSD party petition has about 3,000 gross sigs. The Independent Contractor thinks this petition drive will be finished soon, once several SD initiative petitions are finished on Nov 9. A party petition for 6,936 valid sigs would get us two elections (2016 & 2018), with a possibility of retaining ballot status if we get 2.5% for Governor in 2018.

Future expenditures on this drive should be covered by the 2015 LNC budget.

TN: 275 valid sig petition drive for President in 2016. The LPTN should handle this itself. The LPTN needs to work to get this done well ahead of the deadline in 2016, and not let it go to a last day fire drill, as in 2012.

The US Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals recently agreed with the US District Court that the TN law on how a party stays on the ballot is unconstitutional. The LPTN has a lawsuit pending in TN, and it seems likely (in Richard Winger's opinion) that it will win. The LPTN might then get on as a party in TN with no petition, something the Green Party and the Constitution Party have done in both 2012 and 2014.

VA: 5,000 valid sig petition drive for President in 2016, starting on Jan 2 and ending at Noon on the Friday that is 74 days before Election Day. The LPVA should handle this itself.

WA: 1,000 valid sig petition drive for President in 2016. The LPWA should handle this itself.

Total: Sum of 2016 petition drive expenditures: \$272,500. LNC 2016 draft budget has \$299,000 for ballot access expense.

The other committee members are Richard Winger, Paul Frankel, Ed Marsh, Gary Johnson & me. The Ballot Access Committee has not met since the July 2015 LNC meeting.

Bill Redpath
Chair
Ballot Access Committee