

**LNC Region 7 Report
November, 14, 2016**

Alabama:

Alabama is in about the same position it was during the last report, so this report is identical to the last.

The local petitioning deadline has moved up to March 1, 2016. The filing for independent presidential candidates was moved up to August 18th, 2016 leaving a shorter window after the LP Presidential nominee is selected at convention. 5000 valid signatures are needed to get an independent candidate for President on the ballot. It would require approximately 36,000 valid signatures to get a Presidential candidate on the ballot as a Libertarian. LP Alabama will be working to secure ballot access via the “independent” candidate route for the LP Presidential nominee . Chairman Lachine believes that it makes more sense to make for a big statewide ballot access push in 2018 with the Governor’s race and other Alabama elections on the ballot.

Arkansas:

Lawsuit:

On October 14th, the Libertarian Party of Arkansas filed suit in United States District Court seeking injunctive relief to allow for more time to nominate candidates for the 2016 general election. In a special session in late May, the state legislature adopted new deadlines for candidates to file for an early primary election – the so-called “SEC primary.” As a “new” political party, established by petition, the Libertarian party is required to choose its candidates by convention but must register those candidates at the same time that the other parties’ candidates are signing up to run in the primary. With the new deadlines in place, that required the LPAR to hold a special nominating convention in October, over a year before the general election.

The party is represented by attorney James Linger, who is confident about the prospects of the case. “It is hard for me to understand what compelling state interest Arkansas would have in having the nominees of minor parties chosen so far in advance of the general election and significantly earlier than the date for picking the nominees of the major parties.”

Nominating Convention:

Doing its best to comply with the new early deadline, the LPAR held a Special Nominating Convention on October 24th. Despite the difficulty of finding potential candidates who could commit so far in advance of the election, 25 candidates were nominated, including candidates for all four of Arkansas Congressional districts. Frank Gilbert, who was the party's candidate for governor in 2014, will run for U.S. Senate.

Candidate Filing:

During the candidate filing period, 24 LPAR candidates successfully filed. Three nominated candidates did not follow through with the filing process, but two new candidates were approved by the Executive Committee, as authorized by the nominating convention.

Of the state's four Congressional races, three will be two-way contests with no Democrats filing. Both LPAR candidates for State Senate will be in two-way races against Democrats, with no Republicans filing. Out of ten LPAR candidates for State House, eight will be in two-way races, with only two Libertarians facing both Republican and Democratic opponents. In total, of the 17 LPAR candidates for state and federal legislature, 13 will give voters a chance to actually cast a vote next November.

-Michael Pakko, Chair

Louisiana:

Louisiana continues to grow its numbers of officially registered Libertarians. It currently stands at 11,657 voters officially registered as Libertarians with the Louisiana Secretary of State. Much of the recent growth coming from the Greater New Orleans area where outreach is being conducted on a regular basis at various venues from gun shows festivals, and college campuses. The college affiliate at Loyola has recently become very active with many activist tabling events and non-partisan libertarian educational events conducted by Walter Block.

In the recent Louisiana primaries held October 24th, 2016, there were only 2 candidates that ran for office. Jennifer Werther ran for Sheriff in St. Tammany Parish and garnered 3% of the vote. In the Board of Education and Secondary Education for district 6 race, activist and political whistle blower Jason France managed to get 11% of the vote in a race with 4 other candidates two of who had tens of thousands of dollars pumped into their campaigns by proponents of Common Core.

Louisiana's 2016 State Convention will be held at the Belle of Baton Rouge Casino in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on April 16th and 17th, 2016 where bylaws, platform and new board members will be voted on.

Mississippi:

This past election cycle 3 candidates broke the long-standing "Single Digit" curse that has plagued MSLP since Will Chipman ran for Congress. Joshua Hardy ran for State House against incumbent Manly Barton and took 11% of the votes. Boyd Kendall ran a surprisingly good race against heavily favorite incumbent "Christian Conservative Coalition" Republican Michael Watson and took 17% of the votes. And Donald Todd ran for Harrison County Supervisor and took 18% of the votes. While, sadly, none of them won their race, they put forth a great effort and taught this chairman some lessons on what we need to do next time for the candidates. Two of this year's candidates have decided to continue the momentum and throw their hat into the ring for US Congress against 2 term Congressman, Steven Palazzo. According to many, this is Palazzo's last vulnerable year and a win to unset him is necessary. Therefore, we must get an early start campaigning, especially since qualifying is the first week of January this year.

-Aaron Barksdale, Chair

Oklahoma:

No report.

Texas:

LP Texas signed an Enterprise contract with NationBuilder and is currently in the process of systems and data migration to the new platform.

LP Texas signed an agreement with the Norris Convention Center, a newly built highly modern conference facility for our 2016 Convention in San Antonio.

LP Texas has selected a 2016 convention theme: Liberty Now! (attached)

LP Texas has effected a complete organizational restructuring around the idea of an all-volunteer organization and over 60 specific, well-defined, and strategic organizational roles. (attached)

LP Texas has filled over 40 volunteer staff and committee positions in the past 8 months, and is now functioning at a level higher than when we had paid staff.

LP Texas has completed a total marketing overhaul based on a modern, clean, and professional design – mirroring the most successful commercial and non-profit standards. (business cards, as an example, attached)

LP Texas has created a highly functioning Political Department with 5 volunteers, and has completed several major projects including:

- Orchestrating the defeat of HB464 during the legislative session, a bill targeted at eliminating third parties from the ballot in Texas
- Producing super high-quality collateral such as our Platform, 2015 Legislative Review and 2015 Voter Guide (attached)
- Implementing modern technology such as online petitioning and calls to action (action.lptexas.org), as well a system to coordinate text-message activism.
- Creating broad coalitions, bringing together groups from across the political spectrum around a libertarian agenda.
- Working through County Party and non-partisan organizations to engineer local victories such as banning water fluoridation in San Marcos Texas.
- Created the “Choice, Change, Challenge” campaign for candidate recruitment, to replace the dated messaging around “paper candidates” etc. (attached)

LP Texas is in the process of a total overhaul of our Membership programs around an idea of rewarding members for more than just donating money

- “You are LPTexas” campaign to launch the idea of party ownership, and responsibility

- “Time, Talent, Treasure” campaign to create membership rewards for volunteer hours, skilled contributions, and of course also donations.

LP Texas has reinvented itself as a modern, technologically adept, professional, and efficient organization

- “Lean, Mean, and Green” initiative cut over 75% in expenses from the budget, reversing a budget deficit into a surplus, all while increasing service levels and conserving the environment (by switching from a printing and postage driven methodology to electronic).
- Transition from brick and mortar offices to a Virtual Office gave the party a prestigious First Street and Congress Ave. physical address, and high quality impressive office space in one of the most iconic buildings in Austin, with a live receptionist, phone and mail service, and all while saving the party over \$400/month in operating costs.
- Extensive use of web and video conferencing, screen sharing, cloud collaboration tools, and online events services has allowed the volunteer organization to collaborate more often and more effectively, while saving hundreds of dollars per month in staff and member travel expenses.

-Kurt Hildebrand, TX