

LIBERTARIAN PARTY BALLOT ACCESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Libertarian National Committee meeting

Orlando, Florida

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Dear Colleagues:

The following memo addresses petitioning opportunities for the LNC in 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.

The other committee members are Richard Winger, Paul Frankel, Ed Marsh, Gary Johnson (of Texas).

I will have an oral update at the LNC meeting in Orlando, if I have any additional data, and I probably will.

We currently have ballot access for our 2016 Presidential ticket in the following 32 states: AK, AR, AZ, CA, CO, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IN, KS, LA, MD, MI, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NM, NC, ND, OK, OR, SC, TX, UT, VT, WV, WI & WY.

I will now address the other 18 states and DC:

AL: The LPAL will do an Independent petition for 5,000 valid sigs in 2016 after the Presidential nomination. The deadline is August 18. LPAL Chair Leigh Lachine think about 2,500 to 3,000 sigs will be volunteer or LPAL paid sigs. About 5,000 sigs will be needed to be paid by the LNC. I have spoken with I have spoken with Paul Frankel about doing this petition drive. No EC encumbrance yet. LNC Budget: \$15,000.

CT: The LPCT now has about 1,300 gross signatures. The petition drive has gotten off to a slow start, but we now have five paid petitioners working in CT, and we have lined up a petitioning firm that states that it will be able to start petitioning in CT in early June. The Executive Committee approved a \$25,000 encumbrance for CT on 2/1/2016.

DC: We will have to do about a 4,500 valid sig petition drive for President between July 1 and August 10. No EC encumbrance yet. I budget \$25,000 from the LNC due to the difficulties of petitioning in DC.

IL: 25,000 valid sig petition drive for President & US Senate with a deadline of Monday, June 27. About 12,500 gross sigs have been gathered to date, about 4,800 of which have come from volunteers (my 830 is included in that). The paid petitioners had a slow start in IL, but things are picking up. The pay rate has been increased to \$3 per gross sig. The LPIL has retained Christina Tobin's petitioning firm to collect signatures. Validation is being closely monitored by the LPIL.

A \$50,000 encumbrance of LNC funds was approved by the EC. No LNC money has yet been expended on this petition drive, but that is about to change.

IA: 1,500 valid sig petition drive for President. The deadline is August 19. LPIA Chair Keith Laube knows of 550 gross sigs and says that candidates for office in Iowa are collecting more. He does not think that meeting the 1,500 valid sig requirement will be a problem.

KY: One of only two states that depends only on the vote for President to remain on the ballot (KY 2%, WA 5%). The LPKY has filed a lawsuit that argues 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, starting Memorial Day 2016. No EC encumbrance yet. I budget \$15,000 in 2016.

ME: The LPME is suing several state officials and the Secretary of State's office because they ruled that the LPME did not gather the requisite 5,000 voter registrations needed by December 1, 2015, to get party status in Maine. The LPME disagrees. We think we have a strong case to prevail in court.

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.

If the litigation fails, and the LPME does not qualify as a political party through the registration process, we would need to do a 4,000 valid sig petition drive starting Memorial Day, with an August 1 deadline. The LNC or EC would have to quickly address a ME petition drive then.

MA: We will need to do a 10,000 valid sig petition drive for President after Memorial Day 2016. Deadline: August 1, 2016. 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. She thinks there will be 2,000 volunteer sigs, 2,000 LPMA paid sigs, and 10,000 will need to be paid by the LNC. Budget: \$25,000.

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, and Andy Burns has assured me that that will occur.

NH: 1,500 valid sigs in each of two congressional districts (3,000 valid sigs total). I think this is going to need LNC subsidization for a drive starting Memorial Day 2016. No EC encumbrance yet. 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. LPNJ Chair Patrick McKnight tells me the LPNJ will do this petition drive on their own.

NY: We will need 15,000 valid sigs from June 21 to August 2 for our Presidential ticket in 2016. LPNY Chair Mark Glogowski says that the LPNY is aiming for 30,000 gross sigs, with about half of that coming from volunteers. The LPNY has asked for an LNC encumbrance of \$25,000.

OH: The LPOH is still in court regarding Ohio's ballot access laws. There are lawsuits in both federal and state courts as the LPOH attempts to regain ballot status in OH. Our federal case recently lost in US District Court, but is being appealed to the Sixth Circuit US Court of Appeals.

We have hired a petitioning firm to complete the Independent petition in Ohio for 5,000 valid sigs. The petition started circulating on Sat, May 21. It is piggybacked on a medical marijuana petition.

The EC encumbered \$12,500 for this petition drive; nothing has been spent yet.

PA: We are looking at a 21,775 valid sig petition drive with an end date of August 1. As of Sat, May 21, the LPPA had 7,978 gross sigs. Many (but not most) of these sigs were gathered on Primary Day (Tue, April 26). There was an EC encumbrance of \$62,000, of which \$5,000 or less has been expended at this point.

The per gross sig pay rate has been increased in PA to \$3 to stimulate more production. Probably 15 to 20 people responded to Wes Benedict's appeal for petitioners in PA. A validity rate requirement of 70% is in each petitioner's contract and "make good" sigs will be required of each petitioner who does not reach 70% validity.

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: 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.

Wes Benedict thinks this petition drive has been completed, and we are awaiting confirmation from the LPSD. The deadline is in July.

Thank you to all who were involved in this project, particularly Lori Stacey of the SD Constitution Party, and others associated with her.

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. I have asked Ed Marsh, a Ballot Access Committee member, to see to it that that occurs, and he accepted that assignment

VA: 5,000 valid sig petition drive for President in 2016 deadline is Noon on Friday, August 26. I know of 1,035 gross sigs that exist. The LPVA is trying to do this on an all volunteer basis, but this may not occur. I have been the LPVA coordinator to this point, but I have been focused on other states' petition drives with higher sig numbers and earlier deadlines. Andy Bakker, LPVA Vice Chair, has agreed to step in for me in this role in VA. For now, I will predict that no LNC subsidization will be needed for VA, but that is not certain.

WA: 1,000 valid sig petition drive for President in 2016. The LPWA should handle this itself. I have deputized M Carling, who lives in Vancouver, WA, to make sure this petition drive is carried out successfully. M and I had a phone call with LPWA Chair David Traynor re: this drive, and it is proceeding according to plan.

Financial Summary: LNC 2016 Budget: \$272,500.

LNC Amounts spent YTD (as of 5/22/2016):

CT: \$705.00

MT: \$3,722.20

OH: \$2,500.00

OK: \$29,411.00

PA: \$9,652.37

SD: \$9,738.10

Total: \$55,728.67

Remaining Budget Authority: \$216,771.33

Remaining amounts in EC passed encumbrances:

CT: \$24,295

IL: \$50,000

OH: \$10,000

PA: \$52,347.63

Total: \$136,642.63

Proposed budget for states without an encumbrance, as of yet:

AL: \$15,000

DC: \$25,000

KY: \$15,000

MA: \$25,000

NH: \$15,000

NY: \$25,000

RI: \$2,500

Total: \$122,500

Sum of remaining amounts in EC passed encumbrances and Proposed budget for states without an encumbrance: \$259,142.63, which is \$42,371.30 higher than the remaining budget authority.

If we lose the lawsuit in ME, there could be another \$15,000 needed for a petition drive there.

Bill Redpath
Chair
Ballot Access Committee