

Executive Committee Teleconference
February 6, 2014

Status: Approved June 26, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 PM (all times Eastern) to discuss ballot access in Alabama and to provide an update on the headquarters office acquisition.

Executive Committee members in attendance: Geoff Neale (chair), Tim Hagan (treasurer), David Blau (secretary), Bill Redpath (at large), Dan Wiener (region 4), Jim Lark (region 5S). Lee Wrights (vice chair) joined the meeting following the call to order.

Other LNC members listening: Gary Johnson (region 7), Scott Lieberman (region 4 alternate), Norm Olsen (region 1), Starchild (at large), Rich Tomasso (region 5N). Paul Frankel (region 7 alternate) joined the meeting following the call to order.

Non-LNC members listening: Wes Benedict (executive director), Robert Kraus (operations director), Bill Hall (real estate attorney, Michigan), Leigh Lachine (state chair, Alabama), Michael Kane (Florida), George Martin (Colorado), George Phillies (Massachusetts).

Ballot Access in Alabama. Mr. Redpath stated that he wanted Paul Frankel to speak to the Alabama situation, but Mr. Frankel was unable to call in when the meeting began. On behalf of the Alabama party, Mr. Lachine asked for \$12,500 to collect signatures in the remaining counties for six congressional districts. The Alabama party has already spent \$10,000 to collect signatures from Jefferson County (the largest county in the state). The state party will put up an additional \$2,500 to bring the total spent to \$25,000, which would account for 3 state senate spots, 8-10 state house spots, and other county and local offices. This would be the first house candidate in Alabama since 2002. Paperwork is due by June 3rd, and signatures may be gathered at any time between now and then.

Mr. Redpath reported that \$120,900 is in the budget for ballot access, with approximately \$14,400-\$19,400 that is not yet allocated and available for this request. (At this time, Mr. Wrights joined the call.) Mr. Redpath stated that although there are other states that will have needs shortly, there is value in running candidates in Alabama, especially given the treatment of third parties and the number of candidates that will be running. (At this time, Mr. Frankel joined the call.)

Starchild asked Mr. Lachine whether he would hire libertarians to collect signatures, and record the costs involved; Mr. Lachine replied that he will try to use his members as best he could, especially his treasurer, and would publish his financial data.

Mr. Wiener asked whether there are longer term benefits to having candidates run, such as ballot access status. Mr. Lachine replied that if a candidate can get 20% of the vote, there will be ballot access in the next cycle for that office or county.

Mr. Tomasso asked for the source of the money already spent; Mr. Lachine replied that the \$10,000 came from Mr. Benedict's PAC, but that the party has conducted internal fundraising efforts.

Mr. Redpath moved (Mr. Wrights seconded) to encumber \$12,500 from the ballot access budget for this year for the Libertarian Party of Alabama petition drive described in this phone call. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Headquarters Office Acquisition. Mr. Neale asked our lead real estate attorney Mr. Hall to provide a status report. The LNC has entered into an agreement to purchase an office townhouse building in Alexandria, Virginia, contingent upon obtaining acceptable financing, and acceptable inspections and title. We anticipate that the closing of the purchase will occur no later than the end of May, and LPHQ would then move to the new location following closing. Under the terms of the purchase agreement, the seller has specified that the purchase agreement, the due diligence documents provided pursuant to it, and the specific details of the transaction are to be held confidential, pending closing.

Mr. Kraus is leading the various inspections and obtaining loan commitments and provided a report relating thereto.

In response to questions asked by Mr. Wiener, Mr. Kraus reported that we plan to give notice to terminate our lease at the Watergate at the end of February if all goes well; some banks have offered an option for 2-3 months of interest-only payments to allow us to terminate our lease early. Mr. Kraus does not believe that there will be any problems with meeting our down payment obligations under the acquisition motion in effect.

In response to a question by Dr. Lark about the confidentiality clause, Mr. Hall stated that the basic terms he mentioned may be provided to the members. Further to this point, Mr. Hall stated that anything that was discussed on the call could be disclosed. The contents of various inspection reports should not be disclosed publicly, although the LNC may be and should be provided with copies, provided the confidentiality clause is respected. In response to a request by Starchild, Mr. Hall read the clause aloud.

In response to a second question by Starchild about the negotiation process, Mr. Neale reported that he has taken the lead, but Mr. Kraus, Mr. Hall, and LNC counsel Gary Sinawski have all been involved in the process, with Mr. Blau and Mr. Hinkle acting in advisory roles in their capacity as members of the Office Acquisition committee. Dr. Lark asked that Mr. Hall provide a statement to the LNC to indicate what information LNC members can legitimately discuss, and that Mr. Hall agreed to do so.

Mr. Kraus reported that it is likely we will sign our final commitment letter by the end of the month. Mr. Neale asked about the timing, given that the inspection reports will take 7-10 days to come back. Mr. Kraus responded that the primary bank wants to work with us, and should be flexible with timing and who can sign the commitment.

Mr. Neale scheduled another EC meeting for February 13, 9:30 PM to conduct a review of loan offers.

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 10:34 PM.

Submitted by:

David Blau

Secretary, Libertarian National Committee