



Region 8 Report

Submitted on 4/17/17 by Regional Representative Justin O'Donnell

Massachusetts:

The Massachusetts Party has been working tirelessly on ballot access, and their statewide candidate this year, Daniel Fishman has secured enough valid signatures to earn his spot on the Primary Ballot in September. The results of Fishman's race will determine Ballot access in Massachusetts for the 2020 LP Presidential Ticket.

Marc Mercier is also on track to secure Ballot access in the race for Governor's Council this year as well, though his race will have no impact on future Ballot access concerns. Other candidates are petitioning for a variety of lower level seats in the state house, and at least 1 candidate is petitioning for ballot access in a race for a US Congressional seat, however their petition progress has not been reported to the state committee, and is unknown.

Daniel Fishman has received several notable media mentions in regards to his campaign, and his recent endorsement by Former Massachusetts Governor Bill Weld.

New Hampshire:

The LPNH Convention will be held on 04/28/2017 in Concord New Hampshire. 4 of the 5 incumbent EC Members intend to step down and not seek reelection for various reasons, some to focus on their own campaigns full time, and others because of new conflicts of interest. The upcoming convention is to feature speakers including Lily Tang Williams, and Caryn Ann Harlos, and based on current ticket sales is projected to be the largest attended convention in over a decade for the LPNH.

The LPNH will also be participating in the 4/20 Rally at the Concord NH Statehouse, and recently had several Candidates speaking and participating in the 04/14 2nd Amendment Rally at the same location. The LPNH Candidates were covered by local media as speakers at the event, which Higher profile republican candidates withdrew from last minute.

The LPNH will have an Open Primary for state and federal offices this coming september, for the first time since 1996. In order to retain Ballot access, the LPNH Gubernatorial Candidate

must attain a minimum of 4% in the November General Election. Currently, Jilletta Jarvis is the only declared LP Candidate for the position, and her race is the only one which is eligible for ballot access requirements. Representative Caleb Dyer had submitted numerous bills in the state legislature for the 2017 session that would have eased these requirements, or provided alternative methods for attaining ballot access for minor political parties, but all of his efforts were defeated with bipartisan support.

Maine:

Major Events

- We've had one candidate qualify for the June primary ballot as a party candidate. This is Cody Blackburn for Maine House 125. The Democrats challenged the validity of his petitions but Cody prevailed in the hearing and was allowed to remain on the ballot.

Upcoming Events

- Our Biennial convention will be held on May 12th. The theme for this year is Ready for Growth.
- We are working on lining up tabling events for the summer.

Ballot Access Status/Concerns

- Maine will likely not be officially recognized past 2018. We currently have 5549 registered Libertarians in the state. We need to have 10,000 registered Libertarians show up to vote in the November election. To account for turnout that would be about 18,000 registered Libertarians. The cost of registering another 13,000 Libertarians is estimated at approximately \$50,000. We simply don't have the money nor do we have any large donors we can tap. We have been in touch with Richard Winger and our counsel about legal precedents that we may be able to use to our favor.
- Even with ballot access this year, we were unable to put candidates on the ballot. State House candidates needed to get 25 signatures from enrolled Libertarian residents of their district. Only about 60% of districts have 25 enrolled Libertarians. With our closed primary system, the cost of switching parties can be high. Three tried and one was successful. We had a candidate for US Senate also try to get on the ballot as a Libertarian, but the 2,000-signature threshold proved too much and he unenrolled to make it easier to get ballot access. We have a house candidate pursuing this route as well.

Help from National

- The only help we need at present is with ballot access—we've reached out, but given the LP's limited resources and our small electoral count we are probably not a priority.

Changes in Leadership

- Chairman Clark Phinney resigned effective 4/9/18. At present our Vice Chair position is vacant. We have yet to decide if we will elect a chair pro tempore or just wait until elections at our May 12th convention.

Prominent Media Coverage

- Cody Blackburn's petition challenge got some mention but was mostly buried and overshadowed by the Republican US Senate petition challenge.

Connecticut:

LPCT recently held their convention, and nominated 5 statewide candidates, as well as a candidate for US Congress, and several For the state Assembly. The petition for the Gubernatorial Candidate will require 7500 valid signatures by the first week of August, and the Party already has 1000 Signatures collected in hand. Funds to help expedite this Process would be Incredibly Helpful.

The state chair, Dan Reale, is engaged in discussions with SIX state legislators involving a conversion to joining the LPCT, and feels confident at least 2 of them will be moving forward with the paperwork soon. There is a legitimate question about whether or not resources could be freed up to help with this reelection moving forward.

New Jersey:

The Libertarian Party of New Jersey held it's annual convention on 03/24/2018, Patrick McKnight did not seek reelection as Chair. The New Chair of NJLP is Kevin Lowery. Murray Sabrin has recieved some media coverage in the wake of his nomination to run for US Senate on the NJ LP Ticket, Including winning an unofficial poll hosted by InsiderNJ that included all 3 major party Candidates.

Vermont:

The Vermont LP Finished it's reorganization at the end of 2017 and reaffirmed their recognition as a political party in the state of Vermont. The primary focus the past few months has been outreach and support regarding opposition to the New Gun Control measures being put into place. This is the first major attempt at gun control on a state level in Vermont's history, and the measure is seeing unexpected support from the incumbent governor.

The LPVT is holding it's 2018 Convention on 04/28/2017 in Burlington, VT.

New York:

We are having our annual convention on April 20-22. I believe this will be the first multi day convention for the LPNY. It is an important year we are preparing for because it is a gubernatorial election year. If we finally receive support from a sufficient number of New York voters we could become an officially recognized political party. If that happens everything changes, especially relative to the expense and effort related to our candidates petitioning to get on the ballot.

The LPNY is still growing. We added a new chapter in February (Steuben). [This totals 10 new chapters since 2015. With a loss of 3 chapters -two due to the influence of Republicans and one because of an internal conflict - we now have a total of 18 chapters - up from the 11 we had three years ago.]

We are still growing internally, with more paid members than last year at this time. That makes three years of continuous growth in LPNY members. I believe some of that growth has been reflected in the NLP membership.

We are waiting for the federal judge to issue a ruling on the use of out of state petitioners. We have made progress with the BoE's registration of individuals desiring to affiliate with the Libertarian Party. We finally have a mechanism to get people's party affiliation fixed

immediately. Now the task is to find the (probably 10's of thousands) of new yorkers that have been wrongly registered BLANK or wrongly affiliated with the Liberal or other parties. We will need assistance from the NLP again this year with the petitioning expense. We are attempting to put together a superb volunteer group, but this is an important year and we have to take steps to insure we get all of our candidates on the ballot