

## Region 7 Report

### Alabama

- Reported by State Chair Leigh LaChine
- Alabama currently requires 35,000 valid signatures per election cycle to obtain statewide ballot access. If any candidate running for statewide office managed to obtain 20% of the vote they would gain statewide access through the election cycle. Alabama actually achieved this in 2002 with a statewide Judge candidate garnered over 20% of the vote. It was lost in the next cycle when another candidate did not reach that threshold.

At the present time the Party is focused on getting countywide ballot access in Jefferson County. The Party has raised about 40% of the estimated \$6000 in funds needed to acquire the signatures for the ballot access for next next election.

Alabama Senate Bill 221 which would reduce the 3% requirement for signatures to half that cleared the first hurdle and got out of committee. The bill still needs a sponsor on the House side. If this bill were to pass it would significantly drop the required signatures to get statewide ballot access and make it a much more manageable effort each cycle.

### Arkansas

- Reported by State Chair Jessica Paxton
- Here in Arkansas, we began our ballot access petition today (March 20th). We have 90 days to gather 10,000 valid signatures in order to run Libertarian candidates for any partisan office in the 2016 election. Any neighboring states who may have volunteers who would like to help AR gather signatures can contact our project manager, Michael Pakko, at 501-716-0567 or [mpakko@yahoo.com](mailto:mpakko@yahoo.com)

We are also planning and advertising our upcoming annual convention to be held May 16 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Little Rock. Chairman Sarwark will be joining us as keynote speaker. There will be two training sessions, a Cocktail Caucus social and Executive Committee elections at this convention as well. Details can be found at [lpar.org/convention](http://lpar.org/convention)

### Louisiana

- Reported by Region 7 Alternate Daniel Hays
- Louisiana begins its legislative session in early April 2015 during which the LPL and its members will be utilizing the knowledge and relationships it established in 2014 to help move forward Liberty minded legislation. This involvement helps to teach the mechanisms of the legislature and how to prepare candidates to run and succeed in office. Marijuana reform will be one of the heavily areas of focus once again.

Louisiana has quite a few candidates looking at running in October 2015 for the State Legislature and other offices. Many are in an early exploratory phase. Some have already announced. Jennifer Werther seeks to run for Sheriff of St. Tammany parish.

Jay Price is running for State Representative in District 70.

Jason France is running for BESE (Board of Elementary and Secondary Education) District 6. Mr France is a particularly exciting candidate because of his national notoriety created through his blog and whistleblowing activities enabled by his time as a La Department of Education data specialist. His blog can be followed at : <https://crazycrawfish.wordpress.com/tag/louisiana/>

Louisiana currently stands at 10,981 registered Libertarians. There are approximately 190 State Party Dues Paying members.

Louisiana has set it's next state convention for April 16 & 17th 2016 with the location to be determined.

## Mississippi

- Reported by State Chair Mario Barnes
- Danny Bedwell former MLP Chairman will be running for Congress in Congressional District 1 in a special election held, May 12th, 2015. Additionally in the fall elections we have Sherry Bedwell (Danny's wife) running for Circuit Clerk Boyd Kindell and Jacob Reeves running for State Senate Josh Hardy running for State House 3 candidates running for the position of district supervisor as well.

## Oklahoma

- Reported by Oklahoma State Chair Steve Long
- 2015 has been a year of renewal for the Libertarian Party of Oklahoma.

The two main things we have focused on this year are maintaining an identity separate of the Tea Party and establishing our relevance. Making voters and activists more aware of our existence and stressing the differences between Libertarians and Tea Party Republicans is paramount to creating a "brand" for the Party here in Oklahoma.

At the beginning of the year, we led a protest against Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt's lawsuit he filed against the state of Colorado in response to their legalization of marijuana.

In February, we hosted the first annual WTF - Where's the Freedom event at the State Capitol. This purpose of this event was to highlight bad legislation that had been proposed this session. Bills such as the hoodie ban (SB13), the prohibition of the recognition of same-sex common law marriages (SB 669), the raising of the minimum wage (HB1344) and the prohibition of the use of public funds for licensing of same-sex marriage (HB1599).

Also in February, we sponsored the OKLP We Stand With Muslims event at the State Capitol. This coincided with Muslim Day, which was sponsored by CAIR-OK. As part of this event we delivered to each legislator a letter in support of Oklahoma's Muslim community and helped escort Muslim citizens into the State Capitol to meet with their elected officials. Visibility for the OKLP was high at this event and we were generally well received save for the few protestors present at the event.

We also continued our fight to get the Libertarian Part on the ballot in the State of Oklahoma. Our efforts have led to the passage of a ballot access bill in the State House that would decrease the required number of signatures to form a political party.

As always, we continue to utilize technology by revamping our presence on social media with Facebook, Twitter and our official website.

2015 is the year that we stopped being ignored!

#### Texas

- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter SLEC meeting was canceled due to weather.
- Rolled out Rally Congress tool.
- Rolled out an internal communication website for SLEC members.