

# OHIO

Elections: <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections.aspx>

Election Law: <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/35> (title 35)

## Ballot Access:

- To become a recognized party, must collect signatures equal to 1% of the votes cast for either Governor or President in the most recent general election (2014: 3,001,794; 1% = 30,018).
- At least 500 signatures must come from half of the congressional districts.
- Retention: candidate for Governor or President must get 3%. Party is recognized for 2 general election cycles (§ 3517.01(A)(1)).
- Party petitions must be filed 125 days before the general election (2016: July 6) (§ 3517.012).
- The primary is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March (2016: May 3) (§ 3501.01(E)(1)).
- Can run Independent candidates for statewide office by collecting 5,000 signatures (15,000 maximum). Independent Presidential candidate must file 90 days prior to the general election (2016: August 10); non-Presidential candidates must file by 4 pm the day prior to the primary election (§ 3513.257).
- Presidential paperwork due 90 days prior to the general election (2016: August 10) (§ 3505.10).
- Note: legislature passed law recently which requires parties in 2014 to collect signatures equal to ½ of 1% of the vote for President in 2012, and for future elections will be 1% of the vote for President or Governor in the most recent general election. Party retention in 2014 will be 2% of the vote for Governor, and in future elections will be 3% of the vote for Governor or President.

Current Status: Unrecognized.



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# ORGANIZING A PETITION DRIVE

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**B**efore a single signature is collected, those responsible for a petition drive should have the answers to the following questions:

1. How many valid signatures are required (exact number)?
2. How many total signatures are required (approximate number)?
3. What date does petitioning start?
4. What date and time does petitioning end?
5. What information is required to be on the petition?
6. Who is responsible for printing the petitions?
7. Who is permitted to circulate petitions?
8. Who is permitted to sign petitions?
9. Is there a distribution requirement (so many signatures per county or district)?
10. Is there a requirement that signatures must be segregated by counties or other geographical divisions?
11. Where should the signatures be submitted?
12. Must the signatures be notarized?
13. What other screwy requirements are there?

Now that you know the answers to these questions, you should map out the petition drive and divide the basic elements — time, money and signatures — into manageable units.

### Quantify

Assume a state with a requirement of 10,000 valid signatures, or approximately 15,000 total signatures. You have 120 days in which to collect the signatures.

If you collect 125 signatures per day, you'll meet the requirement ( $120 \times 125 = 15,000$ ).

If 50 people collected 300 signatures apiece, or 2.5 signatures per day for 120 days, you'll meet your requirement ( $2.5 \times 120 \times 50 = 15,000$ ).

If 100 people collected — well, you get the idea. The point is: to quantify. Break everything — time, money, signatures — into manageable units, and get about getting the job done, unit by unit.

Get pledges from volunteers to collect a specific number of signatures. Ask each person to make a commitment for an actual number, whether it's 10 or 1,000. Ask them to collect one or two or five signatures per day for every day of the petitioning period. Ask them anything, but get a firm commitment for a specific number.

Add up your numbers. For this example, assume they add up to 8,000 signatures. That's not enough.

You'll probably need to pay people to collect signatures to make up the volunteer shortfall, so you need to raise enough money to cover 7,000 signatures. The average rate is 50 cents per signature, so you need \$3,500.00.

Go back to your LP members — especially the ones who refused to commit to a number of signatures -- and ask them for specific dollar commitments.

Explain that \$100.00 is as good as 100 signatures, and ask them to "buy" 200 (or 400, or 800) signatures. If 35 people

agree to contribute \$100.00 each (or some other formula), you've raised your \$3,500.00.

Once again: ALWAYS QUANTIFY. Don't just say, "We need 15,000 signatures," and leave it at that. Say, "If every one of our 100 members collects 150 signatures or contributes \$100.00, we'll achieve our goal of 15,000 signatures."

The reason is this: If you give a person a reasonable, achievable goal and that person knows that other people like him are committing to the same goal, he'll be motivated to achieve it, too.

Of course, some of your members will refuse to collect signatures or to send money. You'll need to ask some of your reliable activists to "double up" on their pledges. Many of them will do it anyway, without being asked.

If, after you've asked everyone in sight for a pledge of signatures or money, your numbers still don't add up to your goal, go ahead with the petition drive anyway. Many people will wait until you're really desperate, and then they'll respond. The real key is to get as much committed ahead of time as possible.

If you can account for 25% of your goal in pledges before the drive starts, you'll probably make it.

### Dealing with Paid Petitioners

Ideally, you'll be able to find LP members who are willing to collect signatures for pay. If they are good petitioners, two or three of them can clean up a large percentage of your requirement over the length of the petitioning period. Try to get them to commit to a certain number of signatures per week, and check on them frequently.

If you can't find LP members, or don't have enough of them, you have no choice but to "go public" and advertise for petitioners. Occasionally, you'll find people who have done it before for pay. Usually, the people who answer your ad will be novices whose primary interest is in making some quick money. A very high percentage of them will be either totally unreliable or no good at petitioning, although surprisingly few will be downright dishonest. If twenty people answer your ads, figure five at the most to be worth a significant number of signatures. Emphasize that a good petitioner can make good money — \$50 per day for 100 signatures, \$100 per day for 200.

Treat your paid petitioners as you would treat valued employees. Make them feel wanted and needed. Be courteous and friendly, but not a pushover. Set specific, reasonable goals, and praise them for meeting them. Offer incentives if necessary. Check on their progress on a regular basis. Throw a party for them occasionally, where they can meet other petitioners and exchange ideas and techniques. Suggest good places to petition.

Pay them regularly and often, and set up definite paydays in advance for everybody, no exceptions.

Your classified ad can read: "Petitioners needed to collect signatures for political party. \$50-\$100 or more per day possible," and include a name and phone number.

Screen the calls for people who are underage, non-citizens, or obviously inappropriate for the job. Many of the people who say they will come in for training won't; keep your ad in the paper as long as you can afford to.

### During the Petition Drive

As Coordinator of the Petition Drive, you've taken on the responsibility for:

1. Knowing and complying with all legal requirements;
2. Establishing a "game plan" and sticking to it;
3. Recruiting volunteer petitioners;
4. Raising money;
5. Supervising the paid petitioners.

There's one more thing, and it's the most important: keeping track of the signatures.

"Phantom" signatures are, unfortunately, the rule rather than the exception during petition drives. Phantom signatures are the ones you think you have, but don't.

For example, you appoint three county coordinators, A, B, and C. They're supposed to collect the completed petitions from the petitioners who are working in their respective counties.

When you call them up for a status report, A says he has 1,000 signatures. B reports 1,900 signatures, and C tells you he has 900.

Great, you've got 3,000 signatures! Except that A was relying on the word of his "ace" petitioner who told him he had 250 signatures when he didn't have any. B, on the other hand, could verify 1,000 of his signatures, but he was also counting the 900 that C gathered, since he didn't understand that he was only supposed to report the signatures from his county, not C's.

Suddenly, you have 750 phantom signatures — one quarter of the total you thought you had.

The point is obvious: Don't count any signatures unless you yourself have actually seen them. If geography makes this impossible, appoint one person in each location whom you can trust not to report signatures which he or she hasn't actually seen.

There should never be more than two levels in the hierarchy; you, and a regional coordinator, if necessary. Don't permit the regional coordinators to rely on the word of anyone else. And don't accept signature counts based on anything other than what they have in hand at that moment.

Maintaining a policy of keeping a “conservative count” is absolutely crucial, even though it may call for you to be a son-of-a-bitch. Many ballot drives have failed precisely because sloppy signature counting showed more than there actually were. People tend to be optimistic; they want to believe other people, and they want the petition drive to succeed. So they tend to round up to the nearest thousand, or estimate the number of signatures they think are “out there,” and then report these numbers as hard facts.

In fact, there will be a “float,” that is, a certain number of signatures which actually do exist but which no one has ever seen. Since you don’t know how many there are, don’t count them. Let them be a pleasant surprise when they come in at the last moment.

The best way to ensure a “float,” and therefore a pleasant surprise, is to mail a petition to every LP member or sympathizer on your list, whether or not he has agreed to collect signatures, or even if you’ve never spoken to him. The signatures will start drifting in — one here, twenty there — when you need them most. But don’t count them until you see them.

### Where To Petition

The standard method of petitioning is to stand in some public place and ask everyone who passes by to sign the petition.

The alternate method is to obtain a list of registered voters, with their addresses for each precinct or area, and then go door-to-door asking for signatures.

“Public” petitioning is generally much faster. A good public petitioner who gets 150 signatures per day will do much better than a door-to-door petitioner, even if one-third to one-half of his signatures turn out to be no good.

The door-to-door petitioner should have a very high validity rate, however, since he already knows who is registered to vote and who isn’t. And door to door is also much better as a campaigning tactic. But he probably won’t get more than 50 signatures per day.

Public petitioning is recommended when the petition drive is to qualify a candidate or party statewide or in a large area, when many of your petitioners are experienced or are comfortable with public petitioning, or when you don’t have the resources to organize a door-to-door drive properly.

In addition, there are some states which do not check your signatures for validity unless they are specifically challenged; in these states, there’s little point in trying for a high validity rate by going door-to-door, since it takes longer.

Door-to-door petitioning works best when the petition drive is to qualify a candidate in a small district, when you’re circulating two or more petitions at the same time, when you have the resources to organize the drive properly, or when your

petitioners are shy and inexperienced, and feel much more comfortable approaching people in their homes rather than on the street.

Little league and school ball games can be great places to get a batch of sigs quickly — the people are sitting down and can’t run away from your pitch quite so easily. Events where people are milling around rather than rushing in or out work best.

Depending on local election laws and the size of the precinct and its turnout, polling places can be excellent places to petition on primary day. Everyone who comes there is registered.

### ■ INSTRUCTIONS FOR ■ VOLUNTEERS SEEKING ■ SIGNATURES

- 1.** If you are collecting signatures at a supermarket or shopping center where advanced permission has been granted, find the manager or supervisor in charge of the establishment and introduce yourself. Be sure and thank them.
- 2.** Try to approach people on their way in to the store. Ask them to sign before their arms are full of packages.
- 3.** Be friendly, polite and positive.
- 4.** If a person's reaction is definitely negative, leave them alone. Always remain polite!
- 5.** Stay out of political discussions. You are out to collect signatures, not to convert people to Libertarianism. For those people who are truly interested, give them a brochure and take their name and address. Offer to put them on the LP mailing list or contact them at a future time to discuss the issues, party, or candidate.
- 6.** Keep talking until you have asked them to sign the petition. Many people assume that you are involved in a registration drive, not a ballot drive.
- 7.** SMILE AND BE ENTHUSIASTIC. It's catching!
- 8.** You should be able to collect 20 signatures an hour. If you're not, consider changing locations or ask another volunteer to listen to you and make suggestions.
- 9.** Be as clean and neat as possible.
- 10.** IMPORTANT! After a person has signed, check the petition and make sure it is properly filled out before the person leaves.
- 11.** Try to approach groups of two to four people. Larger groups are harder to convince. It is usually easier to get younger people to sign than older people. If you have a choice, go to the younger person.

**12.** For some reason, petitioners consistently report that black females will sign more often than other ethnic groups.

**13.** One good "closer" for people who are hesitant to sign is to tell them that they are not really supporting the candidate or his ideas, just his right to be on the ballot. You may often have to say this twice to get people to the point of signing.

**14.** Offer people the clipboard as you are talking to them — try to get it into their hand.

**15.** If you get one person to sign, stop someone else and give them the pitch while the first person is signing. Group psychology makes it much easier to get a signature if the person sees someone else in the act of signing.

Some petitioners have reported good luck using a short cover sheet which covers up just the top of the petition sheet. It includes a picture of the candidate and a short, simple (not "legalese") explanation of why the candidate needs signatures.

# Volunteer Information

## 2004 Ballot Access Petition Drive Libertarian Party of Texas

### Introduction

The Libertarian Party of Texas has 75 days between March 10 and May 24, 2004 to collect 45,540 valid signatures in order to get Libertarians on the Ballot for the November 2004 elections. To be safe, we'll try to collect up to 90,000 raw signatures because many usually get disqualified. Although we are counting on volunteers to turn in tens of thousands of signatures, we're trying to raise \$150,000 to pay professionals to help collect signatures as well. Paid signatures cost up to \$2 per signature, so your volunteer help is very valuable. Also, we are far below our fundraising goals.

### Volunteer Instructions (short version):

***Rule #1: Tell signers to PLEASE WRITE NEATLY***

***Rule #2: when in doubt, have the person sign the petition anyway***

3. Download petition form (please print legal size, 8.5"x14"):

<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/c11pm.pdf>

4. Collect signatures from registered voters in Texas who have been registered for at least 30 days and who did not vote in the March 9, 2004 Democrat or Republican primaries or runoffs and who have not signed another petition for ballot access this year. Black ink preferred.

5. The Voter Registration Number is not mandatory, but all other blanks are. Tell signers to use their legal name, not nicknames.

6. Have paperwork notarized (this part is a hassle—make sure you understand this requirement)

7. Mail notarized petition forms to:

Suggested mailing dates:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Wes Benedict<br>Attn: Ballot Access Drive<br>1403-B Kenwood Ave<br>Austin, TX 78704 | April 5, 2004 - 1 <sup>st</sup> batch<br>May 3, 2004 - 2nd batch<br>May 15, 2004 - final batch |
|---|--|

May 22, 2004 is the absolute deadline for last minute Overnight Mail to be received that allows us time to prepare the paperwork for final submission to the Secretary of State May 24, 2004 in Austin.

### Volunteers should just get started, or contact:

Wes Benedict, [wesliberty@aol.com](mailto:wesliberty@aol.com), (512) 442-4910, (512) 659-8896 mobile.

We will US Mail a complete petitioning package to anyone who requests it. However, everything you need to get started, other than a black pen and some type of clipboard is available to download from this site.

The information above is enough for you to get by. All of the rest of the information below is just more details and elaboration that will help you be more effective.

## The Full Story

### Why are we petitioning this year?

In the November 2002 elections, none of our statewide candidates received greater than 5% of the total vote. Therefore, to get on the ballot in 2004, we must collect a quantity of signatures equal to 1% of the number of people who voted in the November 2002 gubernatorial race. To be valid, signatures must come from registered voters in the State of Texas who did not vote in the March 9, 2004 primaries or runoffs.

In 1984 we tried but failed to collect enough signatures. In 1986 we succeeded. In every election since 1986 we received enough votes in statewide elections to automatically qualify for ballot access without having to petition. However, in 2002, due to the fact that Democrats and Republicans ran in every statewide race, plus there were Green Party candidates and others on the ballot, the Libertarians received too few votes to automatically qualify for the 2004 ballot so we must conduct this challenging petition.

However, **we have some great news!** For 2004, in two statewide elections with Libertarians (Court of Criminal Appeals Place 2 and Place 5) no Democrat filed. Therefore, if we complete this petition successfully, we will almost certainly automatically qualify for ballot access in 2006 without having to petition for signatures.

We have about 80 Libertarian candidates hoping to be on the ballot in Texas in November 2004 for offices ranging from US President, to the US Congress, to various state and county positions. This one petition qualifies all of our candidates in all of these races to be on the ballot.

In 2003, the Libertarian Party of Texas Executive Committee formed the Ballot Access Committee (BAC) to conduct this petition drive. A partial list of BAC members with specific responsibilities include:

Pat Dixon, Chair, [TCLPPatJDixon@Earthlink.Net](mailto:TCLPPatJDixon@Earthlink.Net), (512) 267-3941  
Anthony Garcia, Paid Petition Coordinator, [agarcia@erealty.com](mailto:agarcia@erealty.com), (281) 997-8141  
Wes Benedict, Volunteer Coordinator, [wesliberty@aol.com](mailto:wesliberty@aol.com), 512-442-4910, 512-659-8896 mobile

### Detailed Instructions for Petitioners:

1. Print out the petition form (on legal size paper) available from the Secretary of State at (<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/c11pm.pdf>).
2. Fill out the heading information
  - a) "Name of Circulator \_\_\_\_\_ (put your name) \_\_\_\_\_"

b) "I know that the purpose of this petition is to entitle the Libertarian Party . . . . "; put "*Libertarian*" in the Spanish section as well.

3. Get people to sign the petition

a) Go wherever people gather, at public events, or door to door in neighborhoods. Say, "I need your signature. Will you sign this petition to get the Libertarian Party on the Ballot?" If yes, ask "Are you a registered voter?" If yes (or unsure)

b) Read the Statement to the signer that is printed at the top of the form (and as reprinted below):

*"I know that the purpose of this petition is to entitle the Libertarian Party to have its nominees placed on the ballot in the general election for state and county officers. I have not voted in a primary election or participated in a convention of another party during this voting year, and I understand that I become ineligible to do so by signing this petition. I understand that signing more than one petition to entitle a party to have its nominees placed on the general election ballot in the same election is prohibited."*

c) Beg signers to WRITE NEATLY PLEASE and fill out all of the information except the Voter Registration Number (unless they happen to know theirs). Yes, signers must put their Date of Birth to enable validation (unless they do happen to put their Voter Registration Number).

d) You may collect signatures from people from any county in the state, but it is best (for verification purposes, not state law) to use a separate page for people from each county.

4. Get your petition **notarized** (this step is quite a nuisance and makes it impractical for us to collect the onesy-twosy signatures from people who hope to simply sign a petition form and mail it to us without having it notarized).

a) Every person who collects signatures must appear in person before a notary and get their petition papers notarized before mailing them to our central collection address. A Notary is someone with a license to Notarize documents, which means they basically check your driver's license and verify that you are the person who is signing something. Notaries typically cost about \$3 and are available at some banks, mail and copy centers, and other oddball places (consult the Notaries-Public section of your Yellow Pages).

Note, if you have 8 pages of signatures to be notarized, the notary will only need to notarize the front page so long as you have filled out the Page \_ of \_ information at the top of each page petition page.

b) The blanks at the bottom of the form in the "AFFIDAVIT OF CIRCULATOR" section are to be filled out in the presence of the Notary.

c) Note that you are signing an oath stating that "I verified each signer's registration status . . . ." The Secretary of State's office says there is no technical definition of what "Verification" means, and it could be argued that saying the above stuff may qualify as verification, so that's what we're going with. We may have a more elaborate method of verification as described later.

5. Mail your ORIGINAL signature sheets to our central collection address. Note, in some counties, your County Coordinator may direct you to deliver your forms to a different address such as a local volunteer who can also notarize the forms for you.



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Central Collection Address:

Wes Benedict  
Attn: Ballot Access  
1403-B Kenwood Ave.  
Austin, TX 78704

In order for us to track our progress during the drive, we are asking that you get your signatures notarized and mail them according to the following schedule:

March 10, 2004 - First day petitioning is allowed to start.  
April 5, 2004 – get notarized and mail 1st batch of signatures  
May 3, 2004 – get notarized and mail 2nd batch of signatures  
May 15, 2004 – get notarized and mail final batch of signatures

May 22, 2004 is the absolute deadline for last minute Overnight Mail to be received that allows us time to prepare the paperwork for final submission to the Secretary of State May 24, 2004 in Austin.

## **Lists of Resources:**

### **County Volunteer Coordinators**

Many of these people are LP County Chairs. The County Coordinators are supposed to help organize, train, and monitor progress of other volunteers in their counties. However, many of these people are first-time petitioners as well. Additionally, some County Coordinators may be unable to follow through on their duties, so don't wait on these people to get started. The rest of the state is counting on you to contribute as an individual. Contact the State Volunteer Coordinator, Wes Benedict, if you are unable to get what you need from your County Coordinator.  
[a link to our list of County Coordinators will be put here]

### **Suggested Petitioning Events**

These are actual events such as fairs around the state sorted by county. In addition to collecting signatures at special events and locations, walking door-to-door in a neighborhood is a proven method, though sometimes slower than other methods.  
[a link to our list will be put here]

### **Some Suggested Notaries**

[a link to our list will be put here]

## **Some Definitions:**

**Voter Registration Number (VRN)** – a number assigned to each registered voter by the County Clerk. The VRN may be called a **Certificate Number** on the Voter ID Card.

**Petition Circulator** – volunteers like you and hired professionals who collect signatures.

**Pre-Validators** – People set up by the LPTX Ballot Access Committee who will review each signature entry for missing information. Pre-Validators will attempt to add any missing information to rescue any incomplete entries before submitting to the Secretary of State. Pre-Validation will sample collected signatures to estimate the average validity rate of signatures on the petition. If time and resources permit, Pre-Validation will attempt to look up each signer's entry in the voter registration databases to verify the signer is a registered voter and did not vote in the primaries. Pre-Validators will then write in the signer's Voter Registration Number as part of Pre-Validation which will make it more likely the Secretary of State will find the voter in its databases and count the signature towards our required hurdle of 45,540 signatures.

## More on what makes a signature valid

Only the signer's signature has to be in the signer's handwriting. Other information can be written later by someone else if the information can be determined. However, it is best to have the signer fill out the form completely (except for the Voter Registration Number, which signers rarely will know).

Required Information:

1. Date Signed
2. Signature
3. Printed Name (first and last)
4. County

In addition, either the **Voter Registration Number (aka Certificate Number)** is required, or the following three items:

5. Residence Street Address (PO Box NOT valid; work address NOT valid; if residence has no address then address at which mail is received including PO Box may be valid)
6. City
7. Date of Birth (yes, you must get this, including the year!)

Not required (though please do collect this information)

8. State (although of course all signers must be Texas registered)
9. Zip Code
10. Phone number (the official state form does not have a place for the phone number; however, we may be using a form that contains a space for the phone number).

Other Notes:

Ditto marks or abbreviations do not invalidate a signature if the required information is reasonably ascertainable.

[Don't worry if you don't understand this item] "Suspense list" voters are eligible to sign the petition if they still live in the same county. In even numbered years (and just

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recently in early 2004), Voter ID Cards were mailed to every registered voter. These cards can not be forwarded by the US Mail, so if they were returned to the voter registrar, that voter was placed on Suspense. If a voter moves to another county, without re-registering, they are no longer qualified to sign our petition. However, if a voter moves within the same county, their signature should be valid even if they put an address that is different than the address on file by the Voter Registrar.

Again, only the signer's signature has to be in the signer's handwriting. Therefore, anyone can fill in the rest of the information for the signer. For example, impatient signers tend to leave off information such as their city, county, date of birth, etc. As part of our Pre-Validation Process, we will attempt to fill in that missing information if we have time and are able to locate the data in the voter registration databases or through other means. Also, some disabled people may need assistance filling out the form. You should have them put their "mark" (any type of mark or scribble for the signature by the signer is okay) then fill out the rest of the information for the disabled person yourself.

### **Pre-Validation**

Many of the larger population counties which are listed below have their voter registration databases accessible online. Petition Circulators are encouraged to perform as much of the Pre-Validation Process as possible. If you attempt to look up some of your signers' information online, you will quickly realize how important it is to:

***Please have signers write neatly!***

It is doubtful the Secretary of State will try harder than you will to decipher difficult handwriting. Illegible entries will not count towards our totals and will go to waste.

### **Counties with online Voter Registration Verification**

(Note, you cannot verify whether the registered voter voted in the primaries with these websites, however, if you can find the signer in the database, you have verified the voter is registered and you should write the Voter Registration Number [aka Certificate Number] on the petition form.)

Collin: [http://www.co.collin.tx.us/elections/voter\\_registration/voter\\_registration\\_card\\_voter.jsp](http://www.co.collin.tx.us/elections/voter_registration/voter_registration_card_voter.jsp)

Dallas: <http://dalcoelections.org/voters.asp>

Denton: <http://elections.dentoncounty.com/go.asp?Dept=82&Link=292>

Harris: <http://www.tx.co.harris.tx.us/>

Montgomery: <http://co.montgomery.tx.us/election/vrlookup.asp>

Tarrant: <http://inet.tarrantcounty.com:8010/ElectionCGI/qac1fw1p>

Travis: <http://www.texas.gov/travisco/voter/home.htm>

Note: for Travis you have to click on Item 2.

Also, if you have the street address and city but are missing the county, you can look it up by using the US Postal Service Zip Code Locator at:

<http://usps.com/zip4/welcome.htm?from=home&page=2132findzip>

## **Use of the Secretary of State and County Clerks' voter registration databases**

Each County Clerk is responsible for maintaining the official voter registration list for their county. Although counties submit these lists to the Secretary of State, the official and most up-to-date lists are held by the individual counties. Our State Ballot Access Committee will obtain voter registration lists in electronic format from most of the largest counties. However, each County Coordinator is encouraged to get their own copy of their voter registration database to perform as much of the pre-validation process as possible. If you do obtain your county's database, please inform the Ballot Access Committee so we can get a free copy from you. The database should be available from your County Clerk for a fee ranging from about \$25 to \$100. Note, the database you need should include who participated in the March 9, 2004 primaries and any runoffs, so check with your County Clerk to see when this data will be available. Although some of you may be tempted to argue that the County Clerk should provide this database to you for free based on public information request statutes, it's probably easier to pay what they request and get it over with.

## **What are the best places to gather signatures?**

Going door-to-door in a neighborhood always works and is legal. Additionally, you can do this at any time appropriate for you. However, early evenings and weekends usually work best. Also, this is typically not the fastest way to get signatures.

Other suggested opportunities:

Universities (probably one of the best places)

Outside concerts and sports events

Festivals

Conferences

Shows and theatres

Clubs that allow it

Raves (though many attendees are under 18)

Throw parties and collect signatures

Host booths at festivals

Drivers License Offices

Courts (in the mornings when people are arriving)

The Beach

Public Protests

Public sidewalks in downtown areas where there is a lot of foot traffic, especially in the morning and evening when people are arriving or leaving work

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Where can I NOT petition?**

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Most private places like malls and grocery stores do not allow petitioners on their property. However, some may allow petitioning, so you should check with the management before trying this. Note, grocery stores are great places, but few in Texas allow it.

Most US Post Offices will not allow petitioning. You can try standing on the sidewalk in front of a post office, but in most cases, customers park in a lot without having to go on a public sidewalk so you won't have access to the customers.

### **How fast should I be collecting signatures?**

Estimates range between 4 and 20 signatures collected per hour. Re-assess your methods if you are collecting signatures more slowly.

### **Should I work alone or with others?**

For safety, motivation, and faster learning, it's best to work with others. Contact your County Coordinator or the state volunteer coordinator, Wes Benedict, to get in contact with other volunteers in your area. However, please do collect signatures on your own if necessary.

### **How do I find other Libertarians to work with?**

Contact your county coordinator or Wes Benedict, [wesliberty@aol.com](mailto:wesliberty@aol.com), to have a list of other volunteers from your area sent to you.

### **Why do signatures get disqualified?**

- 1) illegible handwriting
- 2) incomplete information, such as missing city, county, date of birth, or date signed
- 3) signer is not a registered voter
- 4) signer lists an address where they are not registered
- 5) signature collector fails to have form notarized
- 6) signer voted in the May 9 primaries or runoffs
- 7) other reasons we haven't thought of

### **Can I get prepared lists of registered voters for my neighborhood?**

Some of you may be collecting signatures walking door-to-door in neighborhoods. Some County Coordinators may be able to provide you with a list of registered voters sorted by street name and address so you can skip addresses without registered voters. The state Ballot Access Committee does not have the resources to provide this information to every individual volunteer. Contact your County Coordinator to see if your county will provide this service. Or, provide this service yourself and let others in your county know about it. Brazos and Travis County will provide this service. Otherwise, you should just knock on every single door and do your best.

**What if the voter isn't sure about their registered address or if they are registered at all (a frequent problem with university students)?**

When in doubt, have the signer fill out the form with their best guess. Wrong information will only disqualify that individual signature, but will not hurt the overall petition.

**What if someone makes a mistake while filling out the form?**

Have the signer draw a single line through the entry and re-write it on the next line.

**Can I register people to vote while collecting signatures?**

Signers have to have been registered for 30 days to be eligible to sign the petition. If they are unsure if they are registered, have them sign anyway. Then, you can give them a Voter Registration Card and they can re-register. The only downside is that their individual signature may be disqualified if it is determined they weren't already registered.

**Can I email a form to friends to fill out?**

Petition Circulators have to personally witness signatures, so you cannot legally mail this form to signers to fill out and return to you unless they have it notarized themselves. For example, if you have a friend who wants to sign but you cannot be there to witness the signature, the friend will have to sign the petition but then have their form notarized (effectively making them another Petition Circulator) before submitting the form to you or to the state Ballot Access Committee.

**Can I collect signatures if I'm from out of state or not a registered voter?**

Anyone can collect these signatures. Only the individual signers have to be registered voters in the State of Texas.

**Do I need to get the signer's Voter Registration Number?**

No, rarely will anyone know or have their voter registration number available. However, without the voter registration number, you must get the Date of Birth and Street Address.

**Must I get the signers date of birth?**

Yes, you must get the day month and year unless you get the Voter Registration Number. If you get the Voter Registration Number, you do not need the date of birth or the street address.

**Do I have to use legal size 8.5"x 14" paper?**

Draft version 2/24/04 – will be changing.

Don't throw signatures away if they're on letter size 8.5 x 11 paper. However, experience has shown that the blanks on the form are too small and cramped to fill out legibly on letter size paper. As a result, many more of the signatures will get rejected than when a full size 8.5 x 14 sheet is used.

### **Can I design my own petition form?**

Legally, yes. But this is very risky. Recently, the Ohio Libertarian Party collected over 50,000 signatures but had their entire effort ruled invalid because they used a form that did not conform to every legal requirement. Please use the forms we provide. The state has many requirements for what must be on any petition form used.

### **Will signers be contacted by the Libertarian Party and receive lots of junk mail or phone calls?**

No. Only if signers specifically request it will they be added to Libertarian Party contact lists. Write a tiny "c" on the right margin of the petition form next to any signers who would like to be contacted by the Libertarian Party in the future. Better yet, keep a separate list on a separate piece of paper for these people so you can also get their emails and submit them to the Ballot Access Committee after the petition drive is over.

### **What is the "primary screen-out" I've been hearing about?**

People who vote in the Democrat or Republican primaries March 9, 2004 or the subsequent runoff elections, or anyone who signs another petition (such as the Greens or the Independents such as Ralph Nader) are not eligible to sign our petition. For reference, typically only 15% of registered voters vote in the primaries.

### **Do I have to recite that statement out loud listed on the petition form to every signer?**

Yes, although it is next to impossible to prove this was or was not actually done. Please do it.

### **Is the National Libertarian Party going to help with this petition drive?**

The National LP claims it does not have funds to contribute to our effort. Maybe they will eventually come up with some money to contribute to our effort. However, we cannot count on their help.

### **What about the precinct conventions?**

People who show up to our Libertarian Precinct Conventions on March 9, 2004 and fill out the appropriate paperwork will be counted as petition signers.

Draft version 2/24/04 – will be changing.

### **What about lawsuits to make ballot access easier?**

The Libertarian Party of Texas does not expect any lawsuits to succeed in time to change the rules to make this petition effort any easier. Perhaps, in the future, we will.

### **Do all states have to do this?**

No. Many states already have ballot access. However, several others are also attempting a petition drive to get Libertarian on the ballot. Some have a tougher job than Texas, others have it easier.

### **Can I mix signatures from different counties on a single page?**

Legally, yes. However, it makes validation easier both for the Libertarian Party of Texas and the Secretary of State if you keep signatures from different counties on separate sheets of paper. You will find that at public events and on university campuses, many signers will be from counties other than where you are located collecting the signatures.

### **What if we fail to collect enough signatures?**

We won't achieve ballot access, no one will be able to vote for Libertarian candidates in Texas, and we'll have to try again in 2006.

### **Can I get paid to collect my signatures?**

Contact the paid petition coordinator, Anthony Garcia, if you would like to be a paid signature gatherer. However, we definitely need most of you to do this work on a volunteer basis since we are short on funds, and we have set high minimum quantity requirements for people who wish to work on a professional basis. You probably need to plan on collecting more than 1,000 signatures if you would like to be paid for your efforts.

Contact your county to see if they will be awarding cash prizes to those that collect lots of signatures. For example, Brazos County will be awarding a cash prize to those that collect 100 or more signatures. The prize is \$100 for the first 100 signatures plus \$1 for each signature over 100.

See the County Coordinators list on our Volunteer Petitioner Home Page.

### **What if I'm shy?**

For many of you, this will be your first time collecting signatures. It's actually very easy. Once you get over asking the first few people, it will be much easier after breaking that ice. Contact others in your area for "moral support."



Draft version 2/24/04 – will be changing.

**What if I don't like the idea of asking people I know in my neighborhood to sign a petition?**

Consider working at some of the recommended public events, or go to another nearby neighborhood and collect signatures.

**What if someone already signed the Green Party petition or another party's petition?**

Then they are ineligible to sign our petition.

**Should I hand out Libertarian literature while collecting signatures?**

If you have it and want to, please do. But your priority should be to collect as many signatures as possible.

**Will I receive training?**

The Ballot Access Committee will attempt to provide as much support as possible. However, we are relying on the County Coordinators to provide local training. How much training you get will depend on how proactive your local county is. You may be learning much of this on your own. If you find you're good at it, or are already experienced, please consider training others in your area. Others need your help, and our County Coordinators may not be nearly as good as you at petitioning.

**What about candidates for office?**

Candidates for office make excellent signature collectors. For one thing, they need this ballot access drive to succeed for them to be listed on the ballot. Also, saying to prospects "I would like to be a candidate for office and need your signature to get on the ballot" is a very effective opening line.

**By signing the petition, are people indicating they support the Libertarian Party?**

No. Signers are still free to vote for whomever they choose in the November elections.

**Do I have to validate the signatures I collect?**

No, as described above, we will have a centralized validation process so feel free to just mail in your signatures as is. However, any pre-validation work you perform will help out.

**Do "bad" signatures invalidate the entire petition or a page of petition signatures?**

Draft version 2/24/04 – will be changing.

No, each bad signature just gets treated as if it doesn't exist. That is why we submit lots of extra signatures. If a voter is in doubt of their registration information, have them fill out the petition anyway just in case.

### **How many clipboards should I carry?**

At least two is best. You can buy legal size clipboards at most office supply stores. For information on designing a very effective clipboard that makes it easier to handle more than 2, visit <http://www.lpva.com/main/Archives/Tips/petitioning.htm>. Contact Wes Benedict, [wesliberty@aol.com](mailto:wesliberty@aol.com) to have petitioning supplies mailed to you.

### **What if police or other authorities give me trouble?**

If you are on private property, you should respect the owners' rights. If you feel you are improperly being requested to leave a petitioning site by security or a law enforcement officer, be sure to take the name and badge number, request to speak with their superior, and contact Wes Benedict, the volunteer coordinator at 512-442-4910, 512-659-8896 mobile.

### **Select State Law Documents**

The Secretary of State's Petition Form Instructions:  
<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/c11bak.pdf>

Verifying Petitions  
<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/laws/petitions.shtml>

**Disclaimer.** All information expressed above is based on the opinions of Wes Benedict and his good faith effort to understand Texas State Law. However, neither the accuracy, nor the legality, nor the effectiveness of the information provided above and or referenced throughout this document is guaranteed.

### **Thanks for your help**

The Libertarian Party of Texas is counting on you. Best wishes, and thanks for all of your hard work.

**Subject:** LPTX Petition Volunteer - Instructions

**From:** Wesliberty@aol.com

**Date:** 3/3/2004 6:32 PM

**To:** Wesliberty@aol.com

**BCC:** Wes220@aol.com

This newsletter goes out to all 246 petition volunteers around the state. On February 5, we were at 195 volunteers.

Are you ready to start collecting signatures? Do you still feel unprepared? The following should help out.

## Website

To help make your task easier, we created a website with detailed Volunteer Instructions, a listing of County Coordinators, and a database of Suggested Petitioning Events. Please visit the site at:

[http://austineliberty.org/takeaction/ballotaccess2004/volunteer\\_info.html](http://austineliberty.org/takeaction/ballotaccess2004/volunteer_info.html)

## Instructions

I've also attached a draft version of the Volunteer Instructions (PDF format) to this email. Although we plan to continue improving the instructions, we'll alert you to any critical changes. Also, don't be scared by the 13 PAGES of instructions. The first page has all of the critical information summarized.

## Clipboards, Petition Forms, and Handouts US mailed to you

I'd hate for all 246 of you to have to spend time driving to Office Depot to buy legal size paper and a clipboard, and then having to print out your own forms. I'd rather you spend that time collecting signatures instead. To make your job easier, we're US mailing a Volunteer Package to each one of you in a few days including:

### 1 Standard Volunteer Package includes

Instructions: 1

Legal sized clipboard: 1

Petition forms (fits 10 signatures each): 5

Libertarian Short & Simple brochure: 5

If you would like more materials than in the Standard Volunteer Package, please reply with the quantities you prefer. We're more than happy to send as much as you can use. Also, most experienced petitioners recommend carrying more than one clipboard, but to avoid waste, we'll only send the additional ones if you specifically ask for them. Also, the petition form, instructions, and Libertarian Short & Simple brochure are provided on the website so you can print more for yourself at anytime.

The clipboard is an inexpensive one specially designed by a professional petitioner. All of the above is being provided free of charge (paid for by donations to ballot access by people like you) costing us about \$2 for the materials in each package and \$2 for the shipping. (\$4 buys us only 2 to 3 signatures from a professional.)

The Libertarian Short & Simple brochure is something you can hand out to people who want more information about the Libertarian Party. It includes contact information for the state party and how to help out with our petition drive.

## Can I use 8.5x11 paper instead of legal size 8.5x14?

Certainly don't throw away signatures that you might have collected on 8.5x11 paper, but experience has shown that the blanks are too small and cramped which makes more of the signatures invalid because signers tend to leave off information.

## Harris and Travis Counties Only

Please attend your precinct and county conventions to pickup petitioning supplies to help us save on postage. We will wait to mail your volunteer packages until we see which ones of you pick them up at the conventions. If you'd like supplies mailed earlier, let me know.

For Harris conventions: <http://www.tx.lp.org/harris/index.html>

For Travis conventions: <http://austineliberty.org/>

## Are we going to succeed?

We are far short of our fundraising goals to pay professionals. Therefore, we are counting on you volunteers to follow through. It's important to go out there right at the start on March 10 and start collecting signatures. If many of you do collect signatures in the month of March and send them in, I am confident we'll be able to convince new donors that we are on the path to success but just need a little more money to be sure.

Thanks for all of the hard work you are about to do,

--Wes Benedict

Volunteer Petition Coordinator

LPTX Ballot Access Committee

512-442-4910

512-659-8896 mobile

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-- Attachments:

LPTX\_Volunteer\_Instructions.pdf

160 KB

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:**LPTX Petition Volunteers - Start!

**Date:**Mon, 15 Mar 2004 04:04:07 EST

**From:**Wesliberty@aol.com

**To:**Wesliberty@aol.com

This message goes out to the 261 of you volunteers. On March 3, we were at 246.

It's past March 10, so our signature collection ballot access drive is underway. By now many of you should have received volunteer packets via US Mail. Another 60 will be in the mail this morning, primarily to newcomers and Travis and Harris County volunteers who did not attend their precinct and county conventions.

### **The Ralph Nader Campaign**

We have an important development. It turns out that it is legal to sign both the Libertarian Party petition and Independent candidate for president, Ralph Nader's petition. As a result, we are cooperating with the Nader petitioners. Nader volunteers are collecting Libertarian signatures and many of you Libertarians are encouraged to collect Nader signatures. Our experiences have proven that about 75% of the people who sign one petition are willing to sign the other. Therefore, we'll be conducting weekly signature-for-signature trades with the Nader campaign to multiply our efforts. If collecting Nader signatures goes against your principles, then don't do it. However, every Nader signature you do collect will be traded for a Libertarian signature from Nader petitioners. If the Nader campaign fails to follow through or gets too far behind, then I'll send out notice for you to stop collecting Nader signatures. I've been including Nader petition forms in the volunteer packages sent to many of you. However, for those of you who received your volunteer packets early which do not contain Nader forms, you can download them at [http://www.votenader.org/ballot\\_access/downloads/ballot\\_petition\\_tx.pdf](http://www.votenader.org/ballot_access/downloads/ballot_petition_tx.pdf).

Otherwise, send me a note and I'll mail them to you. Remember, 8.5"x14" legal size forms are definitely preferred, but smaller 8.5"x11" forms will be accepted.

The rule still stands that you cannot sign two parties' petitions. So no one can sign both the Libertarian Party and the Green Party petitions.

The Austin area coordinator for the Nader campaign had a letter to the editor published in a weekly entertainment newspaper in Austin which you may be interested in viewing. Scroll down to the 3rd letter which is entitled "NADER SUPPORTERS GATHERING! HOPING TO RE-CREATE 2000 ELECTION." Note that this is a self-described "Progressive" newspaper with leftist views. However, this newspaper frequently publishes letters to the editor by Libertarians and also provides reasonably frequent coverage of Libertarian candidates and events in Austin. <http://www.austinchronicle.com/gbase/Community/Postmarks?StartTime=2004-03-05>

### **Updated Volunteer Instructions**

If you have the 2/24/04 version of the instructions, you can download the updated 3/04/04 version at [http://www.austinliberty.org/takeaction/ballotaccess2004/volunteer\\_info.html](http://www.austinliberty.org/takeaction/ballotaccess2004/volunteer_info.html). All critical information remains the same, however, some improvements have been added. Additionally, they have been updated to reflect the Nader campaign rules.

### **News from Volunteers**

Bob, from Austin, collected 5 LP and 4 Nader signatures in front of the State Capitol, Sunday 3/14 4-5 p.m. He collected 15 total more in the 6th street entertainment district Thursday.

Jon Roland, from Austin, collected 23 petition signatures in 4 hours at a South-by-Southwest trade show in Austin. Jon Roland produces the Constitution.org website, possibly contributes more constitutional commentary than all of the founding fathers of our country combined, yet manages to pull his weight on the nitty-gritty grass roots efforts of collecting petition signatures.

Robert Fritsche, candidate for US Congress, has collected nearly 30 signatures (mostly at work) and plans to average 10 per day by going door-to-door in his apartment community.

A professional petitioner at Texas A&M (Brazos County) collected 200 signatures in 3.5 hours outside of a library on campus. He obtained official permission to be there, however, I'll note that many people do not bother to gain permission, yet end up collecting lots of signatures without getting into too much trouble. His opening line to prospects is 4 simple words: "Please sign my petition." After that, he gets into the details.

A volunteer from Brazos County obtained his county's list of registered voters, created a walk-list for a neighborhood, and spent 3 hours going door-to-door and collected 8 signatures. He sounded ready to give up. I spent 1 hour in Austin going door-to-door and collected 6 signatures. Door-to-door can be a slow process, but depending on the location, it can be productive. However, public areas with lots of pedestrian traffic are usually more productive.

A professional petitioner in Austin collected about 20 signatures per hour at a line waiting to get into a downtown movie theater.

Rick from Austin collected 10 Lib signatures and 9 Nader sigs in one hour on a busy pedestrian downtown intersection in Austin, 6th Street and South Congress. He also collected signatures at a bookstore, Bookpeople, which allows petitioning in Austin.

Barbera, from Burleson County, collected 2 signatures from family. Hey, every one counts!

Gary, from Round Rock, collected signatures from his poker game buddies.

I spent time on the UT campus working alongside an experienced petitioner and collected about 30 sigs in 2.5 hours. Our opening line was "Are you a Texas Voter?" After gaining their attention, we put the petition in front of them and handled the details. I've got about 70 signatures now. Though I'll spend most of my time helping to coordinate all of you volunteers, I'll continue collecting some on my own so I can be a better trainer.

### **Test, Inform, and Train**

Many of you will only be able to collect 10 or 20 signatures from friends and family, and we need every one of those signatures. However, I hope 20 or 30 of you will become superstars, hit the high-traffic areas, and bring in 500 or more signatures. You've just got to get out there and see what works. I trained a few people in downtown Austin. For most volunteers, all it takes is getting them to break the ice and get the first few signatures. I'd guess roughly 1 out of 5 of the strangers you approach in public will sign. That's okay. You just have to ask all 5 of them in a hurry until you reach the one willing person.

If you're achieving success, please let me and any other volunteers in your area know what is working. Consider training someone else who needs help getting started. If you are having trouble getting started yourself, let me know so I can put you in contact with others in your area.

If you have collected over 20 signatures, please let me know about it, how you did it, how long it took, and any other advice you have so I can share it with others.

Thanks again for your hard work.

--Wes Benedict  
Volunteer Petition Coordinator  
LPTX Ballot Access Committee  
512-442-4910  
512-659-8896 mobile

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:**LPTX Petition Volunteers - Week 2 Results

**Date:**Thu, 25 Mar 2004 21:46:21 EST

**From:**Wesliberty@aol.com

**To:**Wesliberty@aol.com

This message goes out to the 279 of you volunteer petition circulators. We've just past the 2 week mark and have 8 weeks to go.

Volunteers throughout the state have collected 1876 signatures that I know of, and I'd guess there are probably another 600 out there not yet reported. Our paid professional circulators have collected nearly 4500. We have about \$45,000 in our state accounts available for paying for signatures. At 7,000 signatures in 2 weeks, we are at nearly half the pace we need to be at. This is not good, but it is typical for the pace to ramp up during a petition drive.

Please do your best to get out there and start collecting signatures. We do not have enough funds to get all of our signatures from paid professionals. Also, please report your results to me weekly to help us track progress.

### **Mixing Counties Okay**

Originally, we asked you to try to keep signatures from different counties on separate sheets of paper. This has proven to be impractical, so go ahead and mix signers from different counties on your petition forms.

### **Best Places to Get Sigantures**

Every signature helps, but the most productive petitioners have been able to collect from 10 to 25 signatures per hour and even more when in good locations.

Collecting signatures on university and community college campuses throughout the state has proven most productive. Some require permission or sponsorship or association with a student organization. In some cases, petitioners have collected signatures on campuses without getting permission and have not had trouble. At Rice University, a petitioner was asked to leave. You'll have to make your own decision whether or not to get permission. Most of our petitioners on college campuses are not actually students.

Outside of concerts and festivals have also been productive. The technique to get signatures in public places is to look people in the eye, ask them directly to "please sign this petition" or "would you sign a petition to get 3rd parties on the ballot?" Then, if they stop, you get into the details about asking whether they voted in the primary, are registered in Texas, etc. Only about 1 in 5 will stop to consider signing, so just get used to rejection, and keep asking as many people as you can.

Young people are more likely to sign the petition.

### **Stories from Around the State**

**1st and 2nd.** Rick McGinnis, of Austin, is in second place with 397 signatures. Many were collected when he and I made a trip to the South Padre Island beach during Spring Break for many Texas students. We each collected about 100 per day. Rick has collected at speaking events and downtown in Austin as well. I've got the lead with 432 signatures, but will be overjoyed to relinquish that lead. (Trying to set a good example).

**Door-to Door.** Clyde Garland has collected 147 signatures going door-to-door in Brazos. This is a hard slow way to get signatures, but persistence does pay off, and the validity rate is very high.

**Collin Community College.** Michelle says, "Ben absolutely rocks. He has a great set-up at the community college. I was lucky enough to collect signatures with him today and I feel like we were pretty successful. Unfortunately, I had only one hour and had to hurry back to work. We talked about planning a get-together with some others listed soon. Gotta run, but I just wanted to give Ben the kudos he deserved."

Previously, Ben Westfried reported: "Wes, I got about 50 signatures in the five hours I spent on the Collin County Community College Campus. They set me up with my own table where I had a sign that read, "Liberty is Sweet....Taste it!" I had a large bowl of Hershey's Kisses on the table which seemed to attract a lot of kids. I'll be back there again next week. I found the younger generation more receptive than their elders. I highly recommend college campuses."

**Drug Legalization Meeting.** David Fried of Austin collected lots of signatures very quickly at this event.

**Presentations.** Jeff Daiell of Houston collected 18 signatures from students where he gave Libertarian presentations.

**High School Student.** Juan Fuentes, a highschool student from McAllen has 30 signatures.

**Outdoor Concert.** Art DiBianca and Michael Burris collected 40 and 25 signatures on the sidewalk outside the gate of some outdoor concerts in downtown Austin last weekend.

**Cab Driver.** Martin Randel of Austin has collected 20 signatures from his passengers.

**Shopping Parking Lots.** Gregg Woodcock from Dallas County reports:  
I have decided to take my petition along with me when our family shops. My wife goes inside and does the shopping and I stand outside and petition EXITING patrons. I keep the kids with me so they can see civics/Christianity in action. The last stop was Target where I collected about 20 signatures in about 45 minutes. About half the people signed. My approach is: "Excuse me, do you have a minute to consider signing my petition to get the Libertarians on the ballot in Texas?"

- Upcoming Plans of our Volunteers**  
Collecting signatures by the owner of an herbal store  
Collecting from parents at school district sporting events  
UT Dallas  
Flea market in Johnson County  
Coastal Bend Community College  
Austin Community College - Northridge Campus  
Sam Houston University in Walker County  
Biker rally by Waller County volunteer  
University of North Texas  
Community events, fairs and festivals in Harris County

**Results from 68 of 289 people reporting.**  
People with either zero signatures or who have not reported to me are not listed below. Presumably, some of you not listed have actually collected some signatures.

|         |                    |     |
|---------|--------------------|-----|
| Travis  | Wes Benedict       | 432 |
| Travis  | Rick McGinnis      | 397 |
| Brazos  | Clyde Garland      | 147 |
| Travis  | Robert Fritsche    | 85  |
| Travis  | David Fried        | 65  |
| Collin  | Benjamin Westfried | 50  |
| Dallas  | Michael K Reed     | 50  |
| Travis  | Arthur DiBianca    | 47  |
| Travis  | Rebekah Duke       | 39  |
| Collin  | Michelle Shinghal  | 33  |
| Travis  | Jon Roland         | 33  |
| Travis  | Rock Howard        | 33  |
| Hidalgo | Juan Fuentes       | 30  |

|            |                       |    |
|------------|-----------------------|----|
| Travis     | Mike Burris           | 27 |
| Brazos     | Delaine Younts        | 24 |
| Travis     | Bob Ruliffson         | 24 |
| Dallas     | Gregg Woodcock        | 20 |
| Jefferson  | Dean Tucker           | 20 |
| Travis     | Jason Pratt           | 20 |
| Travis     | Martin Randel         | 20 |
| Travis     | Steve Adams           | 20 |
| Williamson | Melanie Albright      | 20 |
| Harris     | Jeff Daiell           | 18 |
| Travis     | Lyle H Boyea          | 18 |
| Travis     | Steve Ravet           | 18 |
| Bowie      | Stefan McBride        | 15 |
| Ellis      | Joey Dauben           | 15 |
| Bexar      | James M. Holland      | 14 |
| Harris     | Laura D. Coker-Garcia | 13 |
| Bexar      | William E Grisham     | 11 |
| Brazos     | Mike Gutowski         | 11 |
| Harris     | Anthony Garcia        | 10 |
| Brazos     | Ed Valenta            | 8  |
| Travis     | Jessica Kaplan        | 8  |
| Palo Pinto | Jim Thompson          | 7  |
| Travis     | Dwayne Windham        | 7  |
| Travis     | Michele Messina       | 7  |



|          |                      |   |
|----------|----------------------|---|
| Cameron  | Jack McNally         | 6 |
| Howard   | Walter Lee           | 6 |
| Tarrant  | John Hammarbeck      | 6 |
| Taylor   | Steve Kirby          | 6 |
| Polk     | Kris Overstreet      | 5 |
| Bastrop  | Rod Gibbs            | 4 |
| Brazos   | Steven Joett Boriski | 4 |
| Walker   | Jimmy Standefer      | 4 |
| Hays     | Michael Neel         | 3 |
| Travis   | David Schanzle       | 3 |
| Travis   | Mike Ford            | 3 |
| Burleson | Barbara Cunningham   | 2 |
| Travis   | Charles Hueter       | 2 |
| Travis   | Robert McDonald      | 2 |
| Waller   | Michael Haven        | 2 |
| Harris   | Guy McLendon         | 1 |
| Travis   | Erich Weidner        | 1 |

If you have 1 signature, at least that proves you know where the paperwork is ;-)  
Thanks for all of your hard work!

--Wes Benedict  
Volunteer Coordinator  
LPTX Ballot Access Committee

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:**LPTX Petition Volunteers - Week 4

**Date:**Tue, 6 Apr 2004 12:52:11 EDT

**From:**Wesliberty@aol.com

**To:**Wesliberty@aol.com

It's getting urgent. Please help!

Two volunteers have collected over 200 signatures each in just 2 days. If the rest of you would just collect 200 signatures each in 75 days, we wouldn't have to hire any paid petitioners.

This message goes out to the 297 of you volunteer petition circulators. We're approaching the 4-week mark and have 6 weeks to go.

It's time to get your first batch of signatures notarized, and mail them to me so we can start the validation process. (Travis County volunteers can deliver their signatures to me in person and I can Notarize them for you for free.)

All statewide volunteers (unless you've been told differently by your county coordinator) should mail notarized petition forms to:

Wes Benedict  
1403-B Kenwood Ave.  
Austin, TX 78704

Volunteers report 3,221 raw signatures around the state. Most of you I have not heard from recently, so please report to me how many signatures you have and also mail them in. I'd estimate we have about 4,000 out there. Volunteers in Travis County have collected more signatures (1,864) than the rest of the volunteers in the entire state. Other counties MUST pick up the pace.

I estimate about 11,000 paid signatures have been collected. At 15,000 total signatures, we're still going only half the speed we need to be. To succeed, we need a total of 45,540 valid signatures, but need at least 75,000 raw signatures to be safe. That's 7,000 signatures per week on average so we should be at 28,000 by now. However, it is typical for petition drives to start slowly and ramp up, so don't lose hope. We continue to train volunteers, raise money, and hire paid petitioners, which is speeding things up. Please help!

#### **Who's job is it to train you?**

I'm doing my best to help as many of you as possible, but in the end, your success or your failure depends on you. I chose to learn how to petition. If you're sitting at home watching TV, sending emails to your buddies about how brave and intelligent our Founding Fathers were, or if your hiding under your bed, you're letting the rest of us down.

Are you busy with work, family, and school? Last November I decided NOT to work for 6 months but to be a full time volunteer for this petition drive. My foregone earnings potential, financial contributions to this drive, plus personal unreimbursed expenses are certain to leave me \$50,000 poorer than if I had returned to my professional life and left this petition drive to the rest of you Libertarians.

Several others out there are working very hard as well and have made major financial contributions. I'd hate to see the efforts of the few hard workers wasted in failure because the vast majority of Libertarians did so little. Please get out there and collect 200 signatures each, or if you're too scared or too busy, consider donating \$500 to our petition drive by visiting:

<http://tx.lp.org/bacdonate.shtml>

Or mail a \$500 check to:

**Libertarian Party of Texas  
Ballot Access Committee  
P. O. Box 56426  
Houston, TX  
77256-6426**

Thanks again for your help. We definitely need it!

--Wes Benedict  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Libertarian Party of Texas Ballot Access Committee  
512-442-4910  
512-659-8896 mobile

## **News from Around the State**

### **Dallas County**

I go in fits and starts with this signature thing because I imagine that I'm busy. I'm not busy. It's one of the great scams pulled by today's America: we actually think we're busy. In reality, I should be doing a lot more work getting these signatures.

Anyway, all that aside, I went down to Deep Ellum last Friday. I just thought, "Hey, clubs, music, people will be around." Also, I think I like to go down there because people going into clubs to see music is the demographic with which I feel the most comfortable interacting. Wouldn't you know it, though, there was actually an arts festival going on. I collected thirty three signatures in an hour and a half to two hours-I wasn't keeping time very accurately. I was exhausted from all the social interaction and my own rhetoric or I could have gotten more. A couple of people asked about the libertarian party and I just got very excited and rattled off an entire exegesis of libertarian platform. One thing, though, three people absolutely refused to put their street address. They didn't have their registration number either. Does this completely disqualify those signatures already? [answer-no, don't throw out those signatures--wes]

So, from the ten I told you about before, I'm up to 43 signatures. I hope to get more on a few more trips down there.

In the words of Public Enemy, "fight the power."

Sincerely,  
Richie Sullivan  
-----

Jonathon Clark collected 20 signatures at his softball game and is inviting other to join him next time.

I (Wes) collected 20 signatures per hour at the downtown lightrail stations in Dallas. I made the trip from Austin to Dallas to train a professional petitioner and find locations for our National Libertarian Party Treasurer, Bill Redpath, to petition. Bill Redpath cancelled his trip and the professional decided he wasn't cut out for petitioning. Setbacks happen. Nevertheless, I helped identify more locations for petitioning that will help out in the DFW area.

### **Harris**

The Houston Chronicle covered 3rd party ballot access drives.  
<http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/politics/2485084>

Also, Harris volunteers have obtained permission to collect at the Zoo.

### **Bexar**

James Holland collected 20 signatures outside a free concert celebrating the Final Four in San Antonio.

### **Travis**

People in Austin collected signatures at festivals, the downtown entertainment district, from people waiting in lines at nightclubs, on the UT campus, on the State Capitol grounds, etc. Former National Libertarian Party Chair, Dr. James Lark, joined us in Austin Friday and collected 49 signatures in one day while it was raining most of the day. He's now ranked 15th in the state and he doesn't even live here.

### **Upcoming Activities**

#### **Dallas/Fort Worth Area**

Ben Westfried and Michelle Shinghal of Collin County have organized a petition training meeting and they invite everyone from surrounding counties as well. I'll be there to help with the training as well.

Thursday, April 8 at 8 PM at the home of Michelle Shinghal:

3216 Summerfield Drive

Richardson, TX 75082

972-238-8528

#### **Lubbock**

Plans April 15th Tax Day protest and signature collection at the Post Office. Every county should be doing this. Note, in most cases you are not allowed to collect on the Post Office property, but outside on the sidewalk instead.

### **Results by County**

|             |      |
|-------------|------|
| Travis      | 1739 |
| Brazos      | 469  |
| Harris      | 205  |
| Collin      | 148  |
| Dallas      | 136  |
| Travis-UT   | 125  |
| Williamson  | 71   |
| Bexar       | 54   |
| Bell        | 39   |
| Tarrant     | 36   |
| Hidalgo     | 30   |
| Jefferson   | 29   |
| Comal       | 20   |
| Denton      | 16   |
| Ellis       | 15   |
| Bowie       | 15   |
| Cameron     | 12   |
| Hays        | 11   |
| Montgomery  | 10   |
| Palo Pinto  | 7    |
| Taylor      | 6    |
| Howard      | 6    |
| Polk        | 5    |
| Callahan    | 5    |
| Walker      | 4    |
| Bastrop     | 4    |
| Waller      | 2    |
| Burleson    | 2    |
|             |      |
| Grand Total | 3221 |

### **Results by Person**

Clyde Garland advances into 2nd place!

| Rank | County     | Name                  | Signatures Collected |
|------|------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1    | Travis     | Wes Benedict          | 550                  |
| 2    | Brazos     | Clyde Garland         | 422                  |
| 3    | Travis     | Rick McGinnis         | 397                  |
| 4    | Travis     | Robert Fritsche       | 85                   |
| 5    | Travis-UT  | Ben Woosely           | 75                   |
| 6    | Travis     | Rock Howard           | 70                   |
| 7    | Travis     | David Fried           | 65                   |
| 8    | Travis     | Rebekah Duke          | 64                   |
| 9    | Travis     | Arthur DiBianca       | 61                   |
| 10   | Collin     | Scott Jameson         | 60                   |
| 11   | Travis     | James Werner          | 60                   |
| 12   | Travis     | Bob Ruliffson         | 54                   |
| 13   | Collin     | Benjamin Westfried    | 50                   |
| 14   | Williamson | Melanie Albright      | 50                   |
| 15   | Travis     | James Lark            | 49                   |
| 16   | Travis     | Mike Burris           | 48                   |
| 17   | Travis     | Pat Dixon             | 46                   |
| 18   | Dallas     | Richard Sullivan      | 43                   |
| 19   | Dallas     | Michael K Reed        | 40                   |
| 20   | Bell       | William M Olliver     | 39                   |
| 21   | Harris     | Drew Parks            | 35                   |
| 22   | Bexar      | James M. Holland      | 33                   |
| 23   | Collin     | Michelle Shinghal     | 33                   |
| 24   | Travis     | Jon Roland            | 33                   |
| 25   | Hidalgo    | Juan Fuentes          | 30                   |
| 26   | Harris     | Guy McLendon          | 28                   |
| 27   | Harris     | Monica Granger        | 26                   |
| 28   | Travis-UT  | Justin Humphries      | 25                   |
| 29   | Brazos     | Delaine Younts        | 24                   |
| 30   | Williamson | Gary Kimmy            | 21                   |
| 31   | Comal      | Rick Ruhl             | 20                   |
| 32   | Dallas     | Gregg Woodcock        | 20                   |
| 33   | Dallas     | Jonathan Clark        | 20                   |
| 34   | Harris     | Anthony Garcia        | 20                   |
| 35   | Harris     | Jeff Daiell           | 20                   |
| 36   | Jefferson  | Dean Tucker           | 20                   |
| 37   | Travis     | Jason Pratt           | 20                   |
| 38   | Travis     | Martin Randel         | 20                   |
| 39   | Travis     | Steve Adams           | 20                   |
| 40   | Travis     | Lyle H Boyea          | 18                   |
| 41   | Travis     | Steve Ravet           | 18                   |
| 42   | Denton     | Jon Patrick Daly      | 16                   |
| 43   | Tarrant    | Dewey Owens           | 16                   |
| 44   | Bowie      | Stefan McBride        | 15                   |
| 45   | Ellis      | Joey Dauben           | 15                   |
| 46   | Travis-UT  | William Howell        | 15                   |
| 47   | Travis     | Jason Colquitt        | 14                   |
| 48   | Harris     | Laura D. Coker-Garcia | 13                   |
| 49   | Harris     | Kristin Thompson      | 13                   |
| 50   | Travis     | Scott Horton          | 12                   |
| 51   | Bexar      | William E Grisham     | 11                   |
| 52   | Brazos     | Mike Gutowski         | 11                   |
| 53   | Hays       | Michael Neel          | 11                   |
| 54   | Tarrant    | Larry Nickerson       | 11                   |
| 55   | Bexar      | Benedict LaRosa       | 10                   |
| 56   | Harris     | Joseph Majsterski     | 10                   |
| 57   | Harris     | William Abbott        | 10                   |
| 58   | Montgomery | Ron Hard              | 10                   |
| 59   | Travis-UT  | Rachel Johnson        | 10                   |

|    |            |                          |      |
|----|------------|--------------------------|------|
| 60 | Harris     | Tom Glass                | 9    |
| 61 | Jefferson  | Michael Landry           | 9    |
| 62 | Brazos     | Ed Valenta               | 8    |
| 63 | Travis     | Jessica Kaplan           | 8    |
| 64 | Dallas     | Eugene J. Flynn          | 7    |
| 65 | Palo Pinto | Jim Thompson             | 7    |
| 66 | Travis     | Dwayne Windham           | 7    |
| 67 | Travis     | Michele Messina          | 7    |
| 68 | Cameron    | Jack McNally             | 6    |
| 69 | Cameron    | J Wendel Drye            | 6    |
| 70 | Dallas     | Deborah McCaleb          | 6    |
| 71 | Harris     | Al Montestruc            | 6    |
| 72 | Harris     | Craig Haynie             | 6    |
| 73 | Harris     | Judy Baker               | 6    |
| 74 | Howard     | Walter Lee               | 6    |
| 75 | Tarrant    | John Hammarbeck          | 6    |
| 76 | Taylor     | Steve Kirby              | 6    |
| 77 | Callahan   | Bud Thomas               | 5    |
| 78 | Collin     | Gabriela Stevenson       | 5    |
| 79 | Polk       | Kris Overstreet          | 5    |
| 80 | Bastrop    | Rod Gibbs                | 4    |
| 81 | Brazos     | Steven Joett Boriski     | 4    |
| 82 | Walker     | Jimmy Standefer          | 4    |
| 83 | Tarrant    | Colin F Sowards          | 3    |
| 84 | Travis     | David Schanzle           | 3    |
| 85 | Travis     | Mike Ford                | 3    |
| 86 | Burleson   | Barbara Cunningham       | 2    |
| 87 | Harris     | psam Ordener             | 2    |
| 88 | Travis     | Charles E Pugh           | 2    |
| 89 | Travis     | Charles Hueter           | 2    |
| 90 | Travis     | Robert McDonald          | 2    |
| 91 | Waller     | Michael Haven            | 2    |
| 92 | Harris     | Catherine (Kate) Compton | 1    |
| 93 | Travis     | Erich Weidner            | 1    |
|    | TOTALS     |                          | 3221 |

Please send me your updates. --Wes Benedict

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:**LPTX Petition Volunteers - Week 5

**Date:**Wed, 14 Apr 2004 01:48:13 EDT

**From:**Wesliberty@aol.com

**To:**Wesliberty@aol.com

This message goes out to the 305 of you Libertarian volunteer petition circulators. We're approaching the 5-week mark and have 5 weeks to go.

I don't have an exact count, but we've got roughly 20,000 signatures now and have brought several new experienced people online in the past few days, including some libertarians from out of state who are highly experienced and will be collecting signatures for pay. Many are entering the Dallas area. We almost have enough petitioners to reach our goal if everybody produces. Donations continue to pour in. We've spent over \$20,000 but we still have over \$40,000 in the bank which is enough to get us to 45,000 raw signatures, although we need at least 65,000 raw signatures to have a reasonable chance at having 45,540 "valid" signatures.

To donate funds to our drive, visit: <http://tx.lp.org/bacdonate.shtml>

Rain last weekend hurt a lot of our opportunities, so please try to make it up this coming weekend. It's Spring now, the weather should be beautiful, and you should be able to find lots of festivals and events in your area which provide excellent opportunities for petitioning.

### **Filling Out Forms Properly**

Many forms I've received have entries that are missing the city, state and Zip. Please tell your signers to put the city, state and Zip Code so we don't have to try to look it up and add it later. Also, many people mistake the "County" column for "Country" and put USA. You should write over it and put the actual county if you catch the mistake.

Remember, only the Signature has to be in the signer's handwriting, so you or we can fill in the rest of the information later if we can determine what it should be. Also, Voter Registration number is NOT required as long as the signer puts their date of birth.

### **Ralph Nader Petitions**

The rule for signing our Libertarian Party petition is that people can only sign one Party's petition. So, they cannot sign both the Libertarian Party and the Green Party petitions. However, since Ralph Nader is an Independent candidate, signers can sign both the Ralph Nader petition and the Libertarian Party petition. Some of you may have a philosophical position against collecting signatures for Ralph Nader. That's fine. While I disagree with Ralph Nader on many political positions, I agree with him that 3rd parties and Independents do deserve ballot access.

As a result, many Ralph Nader and Libertarian petitioners are collecting signatures for both groups. In fact, Nader volunteer petitioners from Travis County have already collected over 600 Libertarian signatures. That is more Libertarian signatures than Libertarian volunteers have collected from any county in the state other than Travis County. I owe the Nader campaign nearly 300 signatures right now. Every Nader signature that you collect should be considered currency that will be traded for a Libertarian signature.

There's another advantage to collecting for both petitions. The state rules are that only the signer's signature has to be in the signer's handwriting. So, you can have signers fill out the Libertarian Party petition completely, then hand them the Nader petition and just have them sign it and print their name at a minimum. Then, when you get home, you can copy the rest of the information (such as date, address, and date of birth) onto the Nader petition yourself. This process can nearly double your effective collection rate. To get copies of the Nader petition form, visit

[http://www.votenader.org/ballot\\_access/downloads/ballot\\_petition\\_tx.pdf](http://www.votenader.org/ballot_access/downloads/ballot_petition_tx.pdf)

## **News from Around the State**

### **Tarrant County**

The UT Arlington college newspaper printed a column written by Larry Nickerson:

<http://www.theshorthorn.com/archive/2004/spring/04-apr-07/o040704-02.html>

Hopefully the publicity will pay-off later in signatures. At 36 signatures, Tarrant (Fort Worth area) is the second lowest performing major metropolitian are in Texas just ahead of last place El Paso with zero. However, Larry has secured arrangements to petition at an event sponsored by the Students for a Sensible Drug Policy. Larry is definitely on the right track.

Contact Larry at [hlarrynickerson@hotmail.com](mailto:hlarrynickerson@hotmail.com) (817-370-0941 home; 817-378-2562 work) if you can find time to help him out. Also, some Nader petitioners tell me that collecting signatures in Sundance Square in the evenings works well. Also, the Dart light rail stations in the morning between 6 and 8 am work well. I know this to be true, because I was there two weeks ago. Tarrant volunteers, we need your help.

### **Bexar County**

James Holland reports says "Tell people they are more likely to get sigs by walking up to them than just by holding up a sign. Walk up and say, "Sign the petition" or something along those lines."

### **Harris County**

Jeff Daiell reports that "Randall's grocery stores will notarize free for customers. Most banks and credit unions will notarize free for customers. Many companies have an employee who is a notary who will notarize for coworkers. I have found over the past few weeks that many individuals are not aware of these availabilities."

### **Tax Day Post Office Protests**

Lubbock and Travis County Libertarians will protest taxes and collect signatures at local post offices on April 15th. Your county should consider participating in this opportunity as well.

Good luck, and thanks again for all of your hard work!

--Wes Benedict

Volunteer Coordinator

LPTX Ballot Access Committee

512-442-4910

512-659-8896 mobile

[http://www.austinliberty.org/takeaction/ballotaccess2004/volunteer\\_info.html](http://www.austinliberty.org/takeaction/ballotaccess2004/volunteer_info.html)



----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:**LPTX Petition Volunteers - Week 6.5 of 10

**Date:**Sat, 24 Apr 2004 02:45:50 EDT

**From:**Wesliberty@aol.com

**To:**Wesliberty@aol.com

This message goes out to the 363 of you Libertarian volunteer petition circulators (plus a few guests). We've reached the 6 and a half week mark and have just 4 weeks to go.

Please see the correction on the Nolan/Badnarik candidate appearance at end of this message.

Hi, everybody!

This is the temporarily friendly-style Wes wishing you a happy and successful weekend of petitioning (bring an umbrella). But first, it's time to pat yourself on the back and congratulate yourself for all of your hard work and I'd like to thank you as well, for what it's worth.

Collecting signatures is very difficult and draws most of us out of our comfort zone. I know many of you would like to help more but are faced with the many difficulties of everyday life.

To date, I've received word that volunteers have:

- had a stroke
- had open heart surgery
- other surgeries and medical problems
- deaths in the family
- been called to Iraq for military service

Others have better news that place heavy demands on their time:

- moving into a new house
- working 50 hours per week and going to law school
- having a baby
- getting married
- vacationing in Spain

Others have had changes of heart:

- 1)After seeing that the warmongering buffoon Neal Boortz is a featured speaker for the LP convention, it's getting a little hard to work up any enthusiasm for the party
- 2) I'm voting for Kerry because we have to get rid of Bush
- 3) I'm giving up on the Libertarian Party and going to try to reform the Republican Party

I haven't heard from anyone who has faced the difficulties the patriots faced who signed the Declaration of Independence and dedicated their mutual lives and fortunes to the founding of our country.

Most of us face difficulties of some type in our lives and we all have to make the difficult decisions on how to spend our time and resources. Motivating and training 363 volunteers, most of whom I've never met, has

been a difficult challenge. For some of you, words of encouragement may help. For others, a little kick in the butt by listing you as an "AWOL Deadbeat Loser" might work. Many of you found that humorous, while others found that offensive. Some couldn't care less what one volunteer from Austin has to say and will do things their way just to help the Libertarian Party gain ballot access.

Regardless of what inspires you, the fact is, 10% of the volunteers have collected 85% of the signatures collected by volunteers. It's the 10% who have worked hard that keeps me from throwing in the towel. We are behind, but I still put our chances of success at about 50% because we have been improving lately, we've raised \$65,000 mostly in small donations, and we have both volunteers and paid petitioners who are ramping up the pace.

Success is in our reach. We're doing well enough to make the decision clear that we should not quit until the end, May 24th. Only then will we find out whether we've collected enough signatures to win or whether we fall a little short, because we're definitely on target to either succeed or just barely fail.

Please continue collecting signatures, and also make another donation so that those of us on the ballot access committee can focus on directing our petitioners to productive locations rather than having to stop to raise funds. We need to raise at least another \$10,000 here in Texas to succeed. Of course, if one of you goes out and gets 1,000 signatures, we'll need less money for hired petitioners.

To print petitions, visit: [http://www.austinliberty.org/takeaction/ballotaccess2004/Libertarian\\_Petition\\_Form.pdf](http://www.austinliberty.org/takeaction/ballotaccess2004/Libertarian_Petition_Form.pdf)

To donate funds, visit: <http://tx.lp.org/bacdona te.shtml>

or mail a check for \$100 or \$500 (or other amount) to:

**Libertarian Party of Texas**  
**Ballot Access Committee**  
**P. O. Box 56426**  
**Houston, TX**  
**77256-6426**

Thanks again for your dedication where possible,

--Wes Benedict  
 Ballot Access Coordinator  
 Libertarian Party of Texas  
 512-442-4910  
 512-659-8896 mobile

Correction to the Presidential Candidate Appearance in the Dallas area (I goofed, as reported below). Also, non-Libertarians, note that Libertarians are strong supporters of the 2nd Amendment and that our Presidential candidates revel publicly in their 2nd Amendment beliefs with all the disregard to those who may disagree with them that petitioners who collect signatures may disregard the sensitivities of those who don't.

Thanks for mentioning the fundraiser, but you have some major facts wrong.

This is our information again:

The Gary Nolan and Michael Badnarik campaigns have agreed to join forces at a fundraising event to help raise money for LP Texas ballot access. On Wednesday April 28th, both Michael and Gary will be at the DFW Gun Range in Dallas to lend their help to "The Presidential Match", a shooting match and fundraiser.

The event is a pistol shooting match and social. You can meet both candidates, and get copies of Michael's book about Constitutional government, "It's Good To Be King".

Everyone who shoots the match will be entered in a raffle to win prizes, and we will have prizes for high scores too! We've collected a lot of great prizes, so you have an excellent chance to win one. Prizes include:

- A S&W 22S target .22 pistol, 6" barrel, in stainless steel
- SureFire flashlights
- Free week of Krav Maga self-defense classes
- Free machine gun rentals
- Free Concealed Handgun License classes
- A special trip to shoot a .50 caliber BMG rifle (graciously donated by Johnny Stout of Ballistic Performance)
- Cash prizes
- Silver bullion (generously donated by Discount Silver Club, [www.discountsilverclub.com](http://www.discountsilverclub.com))
- ... and more donated prizes are being added all the time.

Also, match shooters get \$5 off handgun rentals. You will be able to sign the ballot access petition and meet both Michael Badnarik and Gary Nolan. They've crisscrossed the country for over a year campaigning for the Libertarian nomination for President, and they've collected many great stories! Refreshments will be provided, so whether or not you shoot, you will have a lot of fun - come on out!

The Presidential Match will happen Wed Apr 28th, from 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm. DFW Gun Range is located at 1607 W. Mockingbird in Dallas. They are an excellent full-service range, and can provide everything you may need, including firearms sales and rental, ammunition, and training. The range is very large and comfortable, with plenty of good space for parties. And they rent machine guns See [www.dfwgun.com](http://www.dfwgun.com).

For more information, or info about helping with the event or donating prizes, contact David Rostcheck at [davidr@thisisdavidr.net](mailto:davidr@thisisdavidr.net), or 214-707-1004. We hope we'll see you there!

Please help us circulate this notice to appropriate lists. Thanks!

Jennifer

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:**LPTX Petition Volunteers - 18 DAYS LEFT!!

**Date:**Thu, 6 May 2004 03:12:10 EDT

**From:**Wesliberty@aol.com

**To:**Wesliberty@aol.com

We expect to cross the 45,000 raw signature mark this Friday, May 7, 2004. We need 45,540 valid signatures to win ballot access so we're racing to collect another 30,000 plus signatures in the next 18 days to bring us above 75,000 raw signatures. Win or lose, this will be a squeaker. We estimate our validity rate to be between 60% and 65%, but it's impossible for us to tell exactly how the Secretary of State will treat each signature we submit.

Volunteers report 6,202 Libertarian signatures collected and 551 Nader signatures which are being traded with Nader volunteers for Libertarian signatures. Nader's deadline is this Monday, May 10, so if you want us to get credit for the Nader signatures you have collected, send them to me ASAP and definitely by this Saturday! Mail to:

Wes Benedict

1403-B Kenwood Ave.

Austin, TX 78704 But, remember, you must get them notarized before mailing.

Also, please mail in all Libertarian signatures you have collected so we can clean up any missing information and validate them now. We'll have too big a rush at the end to handle them all at the last minute. Continue collecting signatures and mail the rest by Friday, May 21.

#### **Loan Required**

We have raised \$76,064.77 so far. The National Libertarian Party has kicked in another \$45,000. The once proud Independent Republic of Texas is now the Libertarian Party Welfare State. Ouch! Forty-nine other states must be disappointed. While our state has an admirable 80 potential candidates hoping to be on the ballot, and while our candidates historically earn very high vote percentages compared with other states in the nation, the fact is our National Libertarian Party membership ranks in the bottom 25% in a ratio of dues paying members per total population. We must succeed in this ballot access drive to regain our dignity.

We need \$30,000 more to have a reasonable chance of success. Ballot Access Committee members Pat Dixon, Chris Williams, and Wes Benedict, have pledged to loan \$5,000 each for a total of \$15,000 to this drive. We're searching for 3 more people to loan \$5,000 each to this effort. Repayment will occur over the next year from Unified Membership payments the state receives from National averaging about \$1,800 per month, plus other donations we hope to receive. If you can loan \$5,000 to help our ballot access drive, please call me immediately at 512-442-4910. The additional funds will be used to bring experienced petitions from West Virginia to Texas once the WV petition effort ends May 10.

I feel like I must sound like a used car salesman, but I'm not an experienced fundraiser and I'm not making any of this up. Call me to discuss the details between 8 am and 11 PM seven days a week.

#### **Ralph Nader report**

The ballot access drive to get Ralph Nader on the ballot has a legal deadline of May 10 and they have a higher signature count requirement of about 65,000 valid signatures. Nader insiders tell me they think the Nader campaign has less signatures than we do. However, we expect them to ignore the May 10 deadline and continue collecting at least until May 24 and fight it out in court. They continue to pour money into Texas and bring in petitioners from out of state.

As I've reported, many volunteer petitioners and paid petitioners are collecting signatures for both the Libertarian Party and independent candidate for President, Ralph Nader. While Nader is far from Libertarian on many issues, he is a staunch

supporter of third party ballot access rights. On Thursday, April 22, 2004, at the University of Texas Law School, Ralph Nader packed an auditorium with nearly 200 visitors and his staff passed out both Nader for President and Libertarian Party ballot access petition forms to everyone present who would take them.

### **Green Party and Reform Party**

Word is the Green Party has either officially or unofficially thrown in the towel. Nobody's heard of any serious Reform Party effort. My apologies for failing to mention any other doomed efforts.

### **Badnarik-Nolan Presidential Shoot-out results**

Six people attended in addition to 15 allegedly rowdy paid petitioners who met for a payment and planning session. While the Dallas-Fort Worth area Libertarian Parties (Dallas and Tarrant County) continue to underperform, a few notable individuals have submitted significant numbers of signatures and have made very large financial contributions. Whether or not you are part of an active county Libertarian organization, your individual efforts will help increase the Libertarian Party of Texas's chances of success.

### **Awards**

The top 3 volunteer petition gatherers and top 3 financial donors will be awarded a free pass to the state convention (a \$100 value) and a seat at the head table for a luncheon with Congressman Ron Paul. While several donors have contributed over \$1,000, I'm not aware of any contributing over \$2,000 yet. The top 3 signature gatherers are currently Wes Benedict with 844, Clyde Garland with 624, and Rick McGinnis with 472. However, Stacey Bourland is rapidly advancing with 396, and Pat Dixon has 301. I (Wes Benedict), and Rick McGinnis have recently slowed down so the end ranking could likely change.

### **Inside the dirty business of paid petitioning**

Speak English? Speak Spanish? Don't Speak? You're hired!

While it's hard to get volunteers out there petitioning, it's equally challenging finding people to do this work for pay as well. Our paid petition coordinator, Anthony Garcia, likens recruiting paid petitioners to building a staircase out of marshmallows--add more people to the top and the results just seem to squish back down.

We've brought in experienced professionals from California, Florida, Illinois, Alaska, and Oklahoma. We've hired locals through the newspaper, word of mouth, and other means. A few have worked out successfully. The majority fail to perform, give up, or just plain disappear and we never hear from them again. Several experienced petitioners tell us Texas has been the most difficult place to gain public access to petitioning that they have ever experienced.

Petitioners have requested permission to petition on public university campuses but frequently access has been denied. Others allow petitioning but only in designated ineffective "free speech" areas with restricted hours. Many petitioners take the "ask for forgiveness later" approach but have been issued criminal trespass warnings. While street festivals in Austin and Houston have been lenient with access, Dallas, Fort Worth, and San Antonio have claimed that festival organizers have rented the public streets and parks and therefore petitioners have been forbidden to work in these areas. Nearly all grocery stores and other retailers either forbid petitioning on their private property or require you to jump through multiple hoops only to gain access for a few hours at a time.

Yesterday in Austin, we identified a petitioner who submitted a batch of suspected forgeries. While we proceeded to inspect the work of a second petitioner who frequently worked with him, we learned the second petitioner was arrested while petitioning on the University of Texas at Austin campus because security demanded his identification and he had an outstanding warrant for his arrest in another county.

Cash payments are made in parking lots, check cashing operations call to obtain verification of the validity of checks issued to paid petitioners, and some of our home addresses and phones remain publicly displayed on websites and literature. All-in-all, pretty darn fun!

### **County Rankings**

## Rank; Grand Total Earned; % of Total

1 Travis 3041 45.0%  
 2 Harris 1091 16.2%  
 3 Brazos 672 10.0%  
 4 Collin 410 6.1%  
 5 Travis-UT 376 5.6%  
 6 Bexar 150 2.2%  
 7 Tarrant 140 2.1%  
 8 Dallas 138 2.0%  
 9 Lubbock 135 2.0%  
 10 Denton 87 1.3%  
 11 Nueces 87 1.3%  
 12 Williamson 83 1.2%  
 13 Bell 58 0.9%  
 14 Comal 57 0.8%  
 15 Brazoria 39 0.6%  
 16 Hidalgo 30 0.4%  
 17 Hays 25 0.4%  
 18 Bowie 15 0.2%  
 19 Ellis 15 0.2%  
 20 Galveston 15 0.2%  
 21 Cameron 12 0.2%  
 22 Kleberg 10 0.1%  
 23 Montgomery 10 0.1%  
 24 Bastrop 9 0.1%  
 25 Jefferson 9 0.1%  
 26 Palo Pinto 7 0.1%  
 27 Howard 6 0.1%  
 28 Taylor 6 0.1%  
 29 Callahan 5 0.1%  
 30 Polk 5 0.1%  
 31 Walker 4 0.1%  
 32 Burleson 2 0.0%  
 33 Gregg 2 0.0%  
 34 Waller 2 0.0%

Counties not listed report ZERO, or don't report at all.

## Individual Rankings

| Rank | County | Name                     | Libertarian<br>(not yet<br>rec'd) | Nader<br>(not yet<br>rec'd) | Total<br>(not yet<br>rec'd) | Nader<br>(rec'd) | Libertarian<br>(received) | Total<br>Raw<br>Earned |
|------|--------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1    | Travis | Robert C Wes<br>Benedict | 22                                |                             | 22                          | 126              | 696                       | 844                    |
| 2    | Brazos | Clyde Garland            | 208                               | 12                          | 220                         |                  | 404                       | 624                    |
| 3    | Travis | Patrick McGinnis         | 0                                 |                             | 0                           | 116              | 356                       | 472                    |
| 4    | Harris | Stacey Lynn<br>Bourland  | 0                                 |                             | 0                           |                  | 396                       | 396                    |
| 5    | Travis | Patrick Dixon            | 0                                 |                             | 0                           |                  | 301                       | 301                    |
| 6    | Travis | Rock Howard              | 0                                 | 0                           | 0                           | 32               | 228                       | 260                    |
| 7    | Travis | Arthur DiBianca          | 0                                 | 0                           | 0                           | 55               | 171                       | 226                    |
| 8    | Collin | Michelle Shinghal        | 108                               | 45                          | 153                         |                  | 44                        | 197                    |
| 9    | Harris | Philip Heath             |                                   |                             | 0                           |                  | 182                       | 182                    |

|    |            |                    |     |    |     |    |     |     |
|----|------------|--------------------|-----|----|-----|----|-----|-----|
| 10 | Travis-UT  | Benjamin Woosley   | 0   | 0  | 0   | 12 | 154 | 166 |
| 11 | Harris     | Guy McLendon       | 0   |    | 0   |    | 158 | 158 |
| 12 | Collin     | Benjamin Westfried | 0   | 0  | 0   | 7  | 141 | 148 |
| 13 | Travis     | Robert Ruliffson   |     | 0  | 0   | 40 | 100 | 140 |
| 14 | Bexar      | James M. Holland   | 100 | 12 | 112 |    |     | 112 |
| 15 | Travis     | David Fried        | 0   | 0  | 0   | 27 | 84  | 111 |
| 16 | Harris     | Drew Parks         | 0   |    | 0   |    | 107 | 107 |
| 17 | Travis-UT  | William Howell     | 100 |    | 100 |    |     | 100 |
| 18 | Travis     | Robert Fritsche    | 85  |    | 85  |    |     | 85  |
| 19 | Nueces     | Robert Powell      |     |    | 0   |    | 75  | 75  |
| 20 | Travis-UT  | Allan Juranek      | 0   |    | 0   |    | 73  | 73  |
| 21 | Tarrant    | Dewey Owens        | 65  |    | 65  |    |     | 65  |
| 22 | Travis     | James Werner       | 0   |    | 0   |    | 64  | 64  |
| 23 | Travis     | Rebekah Duke       | 0   | 0  | 0   | 26 | 37  | 63  |
| 24 | Collin     | Scott Jameson      | 0   |    | 0   |    | 60  | 60  |
| 25 | Williamson | Melanie Albright   | 0   |    | 0   |    | 58  | 58  |
| 26 | Travis     | Doug Maass         | 53  |    | 53  |    |     | 53  |
| 27 | Denton     | Michael D Hallett  |     |    | 0   |    | 51  | 51  |
| 28 | Harris     | Tom Clark          | 50  |    | 50  |    |     | 50  |
| 29 | Lubbock    | David DeLamar      | 50  |    | 50  |    |     | 50  |
| 30 | Lubbock    | Matt Harlow        | 50  |    | 50  |    |     | 50  |
| 31 | Travis     | James Lark         | 0   |    | 0   |    | 49  | 49  |
| 32 | Tarrant    | Mike Schulz        |     |    | 0   |    | 45  | 45  |
| 33 | Bell       | William M Oliver   | 0   |    | 0   |    | 44  | 44  |

|    |            |                       |    |    |    |    |
|----|------------|-----------------------|----|----|----|----|
| 34 | Dallas     | Richard Sullivan      | 0  | 0  | 43 | 43 |
| 35 | Harris     | Monica Granger        | 0  | 0  | 41 | 41 |
| 36 | Travis     | Mike Burris           | 0  | 0  | 4  | 37 |
| 37 | Dallas     | Michael K Reed        | 0  | 0  | 40 | 40 |
| 38 | Brazoria   | Robert H. Mayer       | 16 | 16 | 23 | 39 |
| 39 | Travis     | Jon Roland            | 33 | 33 |    | 33 |
| 40 | Travis     | Steve Ravet           | 0  | 0  | 10 | 23 |
| 41 | Travis     | James Hammett         | 0  | 0  | 12 | 20 |
| 42 | Hidalgo    | Juan Fuentes          | 30 | 30 |    | 30 |
| 43 | Comal      | Sharon Blanding       | 0  | 0  | 9  | 18 |
| 44 | Lubbock    | Brad Clardy           | 25 | 25 |    | 25 |
| 45 | Travis     | Thomas Allen          | 23 | 2  | 25 | 25 |
| 46 | Travis-UT  | Justin Humphries      | 25 | 25 |    | 25 |
| 47 | Williamson | Gary Kimmy            | 0  | 0  | 25 | 25 |
| 48 | Brazos     | Delaine Younts        | 24 | 24 |    | 24 |
| 49 | Travis     | Erich Weidner         | 23 | 23 |    | 23 |
| 50 | Comal      | Rick Ruhl             | 20 | 20 |    | 20 |
| 51 | Dallas     | Gregg Woodcock        | 20 | 20 |    | 20 |
| 52 | Dallas     | Jonathan Clark        | 20 | 20 |    | 20 |
| 53 | Harris     | Jeff Daiell           | 0  | 0  | 20 | 20 |
| 54 | Tarrant    | Larry Nickerson       | 0  | 0  | 20 | 20 |
| 55 | Travis     | Jason W. Pratt        | 20 | 20 |    | 20 |
| 56 | Travis     | Martin Randel         | 20 | 20 |    | 20 |
| 57 | Travis     | Steve Adams           | 20 | 20 |    | 20 |
| 58 | Harris     | William Abbott        | 0  | 0  | 19 | 19 |
| 59 | Denton     | James H. Lawrence     | 18 | 18 |    | 18 |
| 60 | Harris     | Robert Howard         |    | 0  | 18 | 18 |
| 61 | Travis     | Lyle H Boyea          | 18 | 18 |    | 18 |
| 62 | Denton     | Jon Patrick Daly      | 16 | 16 |    | 16 |
| 63 | Harris     | Laura D. Coker-Garcia | 16 | 16 |    | 16 |
| 64 | Bexar      | William E Grisham     | 15 | 15 |    | 15 |
| 65 | Bowie      | Stefan McBride        | 15 | 15 |    | 15 |
| 66 | Ellis      | Joey Dauben           | 15 | 15 |    | 15 |
| 67 | Bell       | Penny Hendrix         |    | 0  | 14 | 14 |
| 68 | Harris     | Kristin Thompson      | 0  | 0  | 14 | 14 |
| 69 | Travis     | Jason Colquitt        | 0  | 0  | 14 | 14 |
| 70 | Harris     | Anthony Garcia        | 13 | 13 |    | 13 |



|     |            |                      |    |    |    |    |
|-----|------------|----------------------|----|----|----|----|
| 71  | Nueces     | Bradley Moore        | 0  | 0  | 12 | 12 |
| 72  | Travis     | Scott Horton         | 10 | 2  | 12 | 12 |
| 73  | Travis-UT  | Rachel Johnson       | 12 |    | 12 | 12 |
| 74  | Brazos     | Mike Gutowski        | 11 |    | 11 | 11 |
| 75  | Hays       | Michael Neel         | 11 |    | 11 | 11 |
| 76  | Hays       | James (Bob) Thompson |    | 0  | 11 | 11 |
| 77  | Bexar      | Benedict LaRosa      | 0  | 0  | 10 | 10 |
| 78  | Bexar      | Raymundo Aleman      | 10 | 10 |    | 10 |
| 79  | Comal      | Patrick W. Downs     |    | 0  | 10 | 10 |
| 80  | Harris     | Joseph Majsterski    | 10 | 10 |    | 10 |
| 81  | Galveston  | psam Ordener         | 10 | 10 |    | 10 |
| 82  | Kleberg    | Robert Cole          | 0  | 0  | 10 | 10 |
| 83  | Lubbock    | Will Braswell        | 10 | 10 |    | 10 |
| 84  | Montgomery | Ron Hard             | 10 | 10 |    | 10 |
| 85  | Travis     | Cary Brizendine      | 0  | 0  | 10 | 10 |
| 86  | Travis     | Erik Crank           |    | 0  | 10 | 10 |
| 87  | Bastrop    | Rod Gibbs            | 0  | 0  | 9  | 9  |
| 88  | Harris     | Lamar Mathews        | 9  | 9  |    | 9  |
| 89  | Harris     | Tom Glass            | 9  | 9  |    | 9  |
| 90  | Jefferson  | Michael Landry       | 9  | 9  |    | 9  |
| 91  | Travis     | Jim Carwright        |    | 0  | 9  | 9  |
| 92  | Brazos     | Edward W. Valenta    | 8  | 8  |    | 8  |
| 93  | Harris     | Judy Baker           | 0  | 0  | 8  | 8  |
| 94  | Travis     | Charles Hueter       | 8  | 8  |    | 8  |
| 95  | Travis     | Jessica Kaplan       | 8  | 8  |    | 8  |
| 96  | Travis     | Robert McDonald      | 8  | 8  |    | 8  |
| 97  | Dallas     | Eugene J. Flynn      | 7  | 7  |    | 7  |
| 98  | Palo Pinto | Jim Thompson         | 7  | 7  |    | 7  |
| 99  | Travis     | Dwayne Windham       | 7  | 7  |    | 7  |
| 100 | Travis     | Michele Messina      | 7  | 7  |    | 7  |
| 101 | Cameron    | Jack McNally         | 6  | 6  |    | 6  |
| 102 | Cameron    | J Wendel Drye        | 6  | 6  |    | 6  |
| 103 | Dallas     | Deborah McCaleb      | 6  | 6  |    | 6  |
| 104 | Harris     | Al Montestruc        | 6  | 6  |    | 6  |
| 105 | Harris     | Craig Haynie         | 6  | 6  |    | 6  |
| 106 | Howard     | Walter Lee           | 6  | 6  |    | 6  |
| 107 | Tarrant    | John Hammarbeck      | 6  | 6  |    | 6  |

|     |           |                          |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----|-----------|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 108 | Taylor    | Steve Kirby              | 4 | 2 | 6 |   | 6 |
| 109 | Travis    | David Schanzle           | 6 |   | 6 |   | 6 |
| 110 | Callahan  | Bud Thomas               | 5 |   | 5 |   | 5 |
| 111 | Collin    | Gabriela Stevenson       | 5 |   | 5 |   | 5 |
| 112 | Galveston | Edgar Buchanan           | 5 |   | 5 |   | 5 |
| 113 | Polk      | Kris Overstreet          | 5 |   | 5 |   | 5 |
| 114 | Brazos    | Steven Joett Boriski     | 4 |   | 4 |   | 4 |
| 115 | Harris    | John Kormylo             | 0 |   | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 116 | Tarrant   | Colin F Sowards          | 0 |   | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 117 | Travis    | Joanna Chavez            |   |   | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 118 | Walker    | Jimmy Standefer          | 4 |   | 4 |   | 4 |
| 119 | Hays      | Sally Brocato            | 0 |   | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 120 | Travis    | Mike Ford                | 3 |   | 3 |   | 3 |
| 121 | Bexar     | Mary K. Mutz             | 2 |   | 2 |   | 2 |
| 122 | Burleson  | Barbara Cunningham       | 0 |   | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 123 | Dallas    | Elle Larkin              | 2 |   | 2 |   | 2 |
| 124 | Denton    | Jennifer Barry           | 2 |   | 2 |   | 2 |
| 125 | Gregg     | Anne M. O'connor         |   |   | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 126 | Harris    | Jack McReynolds          | 2 |   | 2 |   | 2 |
| 127 | Harris    | John D Willis            |   |   | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 128 | Travis    | Charles E Pugh           | 2 |   | 2 |   | 2 |
| 129 | Waller    | Michael Haven            | 2 |   | 2 |   | 2 |
| 130 | Bexar     | David Alter              | 1 |   | 1 |   | 1 |
| 131 | Brazos    | Russell W. Jessup        |   |   | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 132 | Harris    | Catherine (Kate) Compton | 1 |   | 1 |   | 1 |

234 volunteers report zero, or don't report at all. The top 10% of volunteer petitioners report 90% of the volunteer signatures collected. So much for the 80-20 rule. Here's to the top 10%.

To volunteer (note, volunteer website updates are not happening, but petition form remains): [http://www.austinliberty.org/takeaction/ballotaccess2004/volunteer\\_info.html](http://www.austinliberty.org/takeaction/ballotaccess2004/volunteer_info.html)

To donate:

<http://tx.lp.org/bacdona te.shtml>

Or, make checks payable to the Libertarian Party of Texas and mail contributions to:

**Libertarian Party of Texas**  
**Ballot Access Committee**  
**P. O. Box 56426**  
**Houston, TX**  
**77256-6426**

Sincerely:

Wes Benedict  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Libertarian Party of Texas Ballot Access Committee  
512-442-4910  
512-659-8896 mobile

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:**LPTX Petition Volunteers - 10 DAYS LEFT

**Date:**Fri, 14 May 2004 11:24:16 EDT

**From:**Wesliberty@aol.com

**To:**Wesliberty@aol.com

Wednesday, 5/14 we crossed the 52,000 raw signature mark. I estimate we'll hit somewhere between 67,000 and 75,000 raw signatures by our May 24th deadline, which will put us extremely close to the 45,540 VALID signature requirement. This will be like Bush-Gore, Florida 2000, for us--very close, every signature counts.

Our final numbers will depend on 1) the weather, 2) how hard you volunteers work, 3) how many volunteer signatures we throw away because they weren't Notarized before mailing in, and 4) how well we are able to manage our paid petitioners. Local elections take place this Saturday, May 15th, throughout Texas. Please try petitioning at your polling place or elsewhere this weekend. While I asked you to send in most of your signatures by May 15th so we can process them, we can accept them so long as they arrive at my address in Austin by Saturday, May 22. Mail to:

Wes Benedict  
Ballot Access  
1403-B Kenwood Ave  
Austin, TX 78704

Mark packages to be "Left without signature," otherwise, your signatures may be trapped in the delivery system on Monday, May 24th.

#### **Letter from Bill Redpath (LNC Treasurer and National Ballot Access Coordinator)**

We are now in the final days of the LP-Texas Ballot Drive. The deadline for handing in signatures to the Secretary of State's office in Austin is Monday, May 24. It looks as if we're going to succeed in gathering the required 45,540 valid signatures to requalify the Libertarian Party for the ballot in Texas--but it's going to be close. The signatures volunteers gather in the last days of the ballot drive may literally mean the difference between success and failure. There is a unique petitioning opportunity this coming Saturday, with elections for various local offices in many cities around the state. Please take advantage of that opportunity, just hit the streets in search of signatures or get all your friends and neighbors to sign--every signature of every voter who didn't vote in the Texas Primary or sign another party's petition (signing Nader's independent petition does not disqualify voters from signing the LP petition) counts.

I have gathered over 2,200 volunteer signatures this year in Virginia and surrounding states. You can petition, too! You will save the LP precious dollars and ensure that the Texas LP will be on the ballot this fall and in future elections by petitioning as much as you can over the next several days. If you do, I and all LP members from around the country will be forever in your debt. Thank you so much!

--William Redpath

#### **Validators Busy**

A team of validators has processed 26,215 signatures and will attempt to review 100% of the signatures we collect to estimate our overall validity rate and make sure the i's are dotted and t's are crossed. (Identities temporarily withheld for privacy, though they'll deserve many thanks in the near future.)

#### **Presidential Candidate, Michael Badnarik, Collects Signatures**

Home again in Austin after months of travel around the country, LP Presidential Candidate Michael Badnarik joined Ballot Access Chair Pat Dixon and me for a couple hours Thursday evening in downtown Austin collecting about 20 signatures each. Badnarik plans to spend several days petitioning in Austin now that he is back in Texas. How terrible it would be if Badnarik were to win the Presidential nomination, but fail to be allowed on the ballot in his home state of Texas.

## Ralph Nader Sues

Ralph Nader failed to meet the May 10, 65,000 signature deadline for independent candidates, but sued in federal court in Austin to get the same petitioning requirements placed for his ballot access bid that third parties have in Texas. Without a definitive ruling and with the prospect of appeals to be filed, the Nader campaign will continue petitioning until the May 24th deadline that the Libertarian Party faces. If you have collected Ralph Nader signatures, continue sending them in and I'll trade them for Libertarian signatures.

### It's not too late to help out.

To volunteer (note, volunteer website updates are not happening, but petition form remains): [http://www.austinliberty.org/takeaction/ballotaccess2004/volunteer\\_info.html](http://www.austinliberty.org/takeaction/ballotaccess2004/volunteer_info.html)

To donate:

<http://tx.lp.org/bacdonate.shtml>

Or, make checks payable to the Libertarian Party of Texas and mail contributions to:

**Libertarian Party of Texas**  
**Ballot Access Committee**  
**P. O. Box 56426**  
**Houston, TX**  
**77256-6426**

Sincerely:

Wes Benedict  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Libertarian Party of Texas Ballot Access Committee  
512-442-4910  
512-659-8896 mobile

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:**LPTX Petition Volunteers - 4 DAYS LEFT

**Date:**Fri, 21 May 2004 02:13:22 EDT

**From:**Wesliberty@aol.com

**To:**Wesliberty@aol.com

FEDEX or US Express Mail or UPS Overnight your signatures immediately to:

Wes Benedict  
Ballot Access  
1403-B Kenwood Ave.  
Austin, TX 78704

The US Post Office (the government owned one) delivers on Sunday (according to their website) so you can US Express mail them as late as Saturday to arrive on Sunday. Stuff that arrives Monday afternoon or later will be thrown in the trash on Tuesday.

Please mark you packages to be "Left without a signature." I cannot guarantee I'll be at home to sign when the delivery truck arrives, and I'd hate for your signatures to be stuck on the truck.

We have nearly 69,000 signatures and are estimating we'll have about 73,000 to turn in this Monday, May 24th, 2004, to the Secretary of State of Texas. We need 45,540 "VALID" signatures, so I think we're going to make it. It all depends on how picky the Secretary of State is. If you have only 1 or 2 signatures, please do not email or call me with questions. We have to focus on last minute issues with our biggest producers.

However, I'm now accepting recommendations for what to call the list of people who have reported collecting signatures, but who will ultimately fail to mail them in on time. It's looking like this will be a very short list of you. Since I've already offended many of you, I will try to refrain from calling it something too offensive like the "Idiots List." I lean more towards something like the "Ultimate Procrastinators List."

We've gone way over budget paying professional petitioners, but since we're so close, it's worth it. Four people have loaned the LPTX \$5,000 each, and I'll be owed an additional approximately \$10,000 by Monday for funds that I'm advancing to pay professional petitioners. We'll work on paying off our loans later, but, if you want to go ahead and help reduce our debts now, please visit:

<http://tx.lp.org/bacdonate.shtml>

Ultimately, whether we succeed or fail, we should be very proud of our valiant effort. Just two months ago we were debating whether or not we should just give up this year. Now, none of us talk about giving up, but instead, we're just trying to fine tune our last minute efforts to increase our odds of success.

Thanks again to all of you volunteers and financial contributors. And we must also thank the petitioners who are working for pay who are collecting nearly 85% of the total signatures. Paid professional petitioners have been hard to find, and without them, our financial contributors would not have made a difference.

For those of you in the Austin area, we're having a final turn in and celebration this Sunday evening at a bar/restaurant downtown from 8 PM until late at:

219 West (that's the name of the place)  
located at 219 West 4th (4th and Lavaca)

Pat Dixon, the Ballot Access Committee Chair, will buy a drink for anyone who shows up with at least 1 (one) signature.

Hope to see you there. We'll have Notaries on hand to accept your signatures.

Sincerely,

--Wes Benedict  
LPTX Ballot Access Committee  
512-442-4910  
512-659-8896 mobile

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:**LPTX Petitioners - 80,107 Signatures

**Date:**Wed, 26 May 2004 13:43:37 EDT

**From:**Wesliberty@aol.com

**To:**Wesliberty@aol.com

Monday, May 24th, after the printer finally finished copying our petitions, despite a fire at the Secretary of State's Office earlier in the day that changed our turn-in location, at 4:15 PM with 45 minutes to spare we turned in 80,107 signatures to the Secretary of State's office.

It looks like we made it! It's time to celebrate, congratulate ourselves for the successful effort, and lower the stress level for a few days. At this point, the Secretary of State will put the petition through a verification process and expects to inform us on the outcome by early July. It's not over till it's over.

Special thanks to the many of you volunteers, donors, paid petitioners, validators, 80,107 Texans who signed our petition, and everyone else who had a part in this success petition collection effort.

Below is a link to Austin television coverage of the Libertarian and Nader petition turn-ins. Although the focus of the story is primarily the Nader petition drive, Ballot Access Chair, Pat Dixon appears in the segment commenting about the restrictiveness of ballot access laws in Texas.

[http://207.207.6.50/rmfiles04/third\\_party.ram](http://207.207.6.50/rmfiles04/third_party.ram)

You can read some of our press coverage in the Houston Chronicle, linked and re-printed below. However, note that the reporter got some details wrong including attributing our 80,107 signature count to the Nader campaign. However, the basics of the story are close enough.

<http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/metropolitan/2589946>

We'll have a more detailed report on the results of our ballot access drive in the coming days.

Thanks again,

--Wes Benedict  
Volunteer Coordinator  
LPTX Ballot Access Committee

*May 24, 2004, 11:42PM*

## Libertarians in;, Green, Reform out

### Texas party awaits petition validation

**By JOHN WILLIAMS**

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Texas Libertarian Party officials said they gathered enough petition signatures by Monday's deadline to earn a spot on this year's ballot, but other alternative parties said they came up short.

Libertarians presented about 75,000 signatures Monday to the Secretary of State's office in Austin. Election officials must validate 45,540 signatures for the Libertarians to make the November ballot. The signatures must be from registered voters who did not vote in this year's Democratic or Republican primaries.

A spokeswoman for the secretary of state said the office hopes to make the determination by early July.

The two other parties that mounted petition drives -- the Green and Reform parties -- were unable to gather enough signatures.

All three parties have complained that the high hurdles Texas sets for ballot access made their petition drives difficult.

They also said voters are wary of placing additional candidates on the ballot who could serve as spoilers in close races.

Many Democrats believe that Ralph Nader's Green Party presidential candidacy in 2000 took enough votes from Al Gore to give the presidency to George W. Bush in that year's close race.

Although President Bush is expected to carry Texas easily in November, some petition prospects balked because of the lingering concern about the effects of third-party candidacies, petition-gatherers said.

"It seems like they blame the third parties for Gore losing four years ago," said Wes Benedict, ballot access chairman for the Texas Libertarian Party. "They don't want to sign petitions because they don't want Bush to win."

Also Monday, supporters of Nader -- running this year as an independent -- turned in 80,107 signatures even though they were due two weeks ago. Nader fell about 10,000 short of the 64,076 signatures he needed to win a place on the ballot.

Nader spokesman Kevin Zeese said the campaign turned in the petitions as part of its court challenge to the state ballot access law, which sets stricter requirements for independents than political parties.

Jennifer Waisath, spokeswoman for the secretary of state's office, said the state will keep the Nader petitions until told otherwise by the courts.

Independent candidates have a 60-day window to gather petitions with signatures equal to 1 percent of the number of Texans who voted in the last presidential election. Nader's deadline this year was May 10.

Political parties have two weeks longer to gather signatures equal to 1 percent of the vote in the last state governor's race. This year, that meant Nader had to gather 20,000 more signatures than the parties had to.

To get on the ballot without a petition drive, a party must receive at least 2 percent of the vote in the preceding governor's race or 5 percent in another statewide race.

Green and Libertarian candidates made the 2002 ballot because at least one statewide candidate of each party drew more than 2 percent in the 2000 election. None did in 2002, so the parties had to launch petition drives this year.

If the secretary of state's office validates the Libertarian Party's signatures, it will be the eighth time since 1980 that the party's candidates have been on the statewide ballot.

Libertarians -- who espouse individual rights, free market economy and limited government -- have fielded candidates for 31 of the state's 32 congressional districts. The lone exception is the 14th District held by U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Clute, who was the Libertarian nominee for president in 1988.

If the Libertarian petitions are validated, Texas will become the 29th state where the party's presidential candidate will be on the ballot.

The Green Party got on the state ballot by petition in 2000, when Nader was the party's presidential candidate and helped coordinate its petition drive.

This year's was the second unsuccessful petition effort by the Reform Party.

Although Ross Perot ran as the party's presidential candidate in 1992, he got on the Texas ballot that year as an independent.

Benedict of the Libertarian Party said the party could not have gotten its signatures this year without spending \$150,000 to hire professionals to help with the petition drive. That included \$45,000 from the national party, he said.

Benedict said petition collectors were told they could not gather signatures at many public places, such as libraries or college campuses.