

**Region 8 Report**

*Submitted on7/11/16 by Regional Representative Patrick McKnight*

**Massachusetts:**

The Libertarian Association of Massachusetts (LAMA) is alive and well.

Massachusetts Libertarians were represented at the Boston Pride Festival. A dozen volunteers -- ten of whom had little past contact with the Association -- collected 800 signatures for Presidential ballot line acquisition. In total we have 30 to 40 volunteers across the state doing petitioning.

Presidential Ballot Access drive coordinator Cris Crawford reported raising over $12,000 from current and past LAMA and national party members in Massachusetts for ballot access expenses. These will cover LAMA's quarter of the cost for paid ballot access petitioning. The target is 14,000 paid signatures at $2.50 per signature by mid-July, giving plenty of time to distribute nominating papers to town clerks and city halls for validation. Signatures have been turned in and recovered from Norwood, Sherborn and Framingham with an overall validity rate above 86%.

Congressional candidate Thom Simmons (CD-1, far western Massachusetts) appeared at a Second Amendment Rally in his District, and collected signatures. Simmons needs approximately 3000 raw signatures by the start of August.

State Committee members Bob Underwood and Dan Fishman are already on the ballot for State Representative. State Chair George Phillies was elected as Political Coordinator, one of the five National Officers, of the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance, the organization of Party State Chairs. Dan Fishman is Regional Volunteer Coordinator for the Johnson/Weld campaign; Heather Mullins is the State Volunteer Coordinator.

**New Hampshire:**

*Lawsuit*

With the help of the NHCLU, we are suing the state in Federal court over a change to our ballot access laws. The time for circulating a party-wide petition was reduced by 2/3, with no corresponding reduction in the number of signatures, effectively making the task impossible.

Despite our brief demolishing the state's case, the judge sided with the state, citing several arguments from the RNC's amicus brief. The oral arguments for our appeal with the 1st Circuit were in early June. No timetable has been set for a decision.

*Recent Activity*

Our website team is evaluating WordPress and NationBuilder.

Some LP activists from other states have moved here recently. We are hoping to get them involved, and perhaps to organize local action.

Two local groups are forming, at least one of which will become a local affiliate covering the seacoast area. Darryl Perry has been a great help to them. We had a discussion with some of the organizers at Porcfest. We went over some things they may want to put into their bylaws, as well as options they have available as recognized regional affiliates, such as candidate nominations and sending delegates to state convention.

I had great conversations with many people at Porcfest, some of whom are willing to help our candidates or be speakers at our upcoming events.

*2016 Election*

Despite several appeals, we didn't make our goal of 16 candidates. This is a record low year for petitioning candidates across the state.

One complication this year is the presence of some well-funded independent candidates for Governor and US Senate that will impact our ability to reach 4% for party status. We still hope to take advantage for the incredibly high negatives for all the incumbent politicians and their old party challengers, but this will be an interesting campaign.

I've had conversations with current and former elected officials who are not happy with Clinton or Trump and may be willing to support Gary Johnson.

Petitioning has started. 3000 net signatures need to be gathered by August 10th.

*Special State Convention*

We will have a special state convention tentatively scheduled for September 24 at the Praxeum in Portsmouth. Brett Bittner will be our featured speaker.

**Maine:**

As of Friday [7/9/16], we needed 99 more Mainers to register as Mainers. We think we have it. This means 4,901 Mainers are registered with the state as Libertarians. We have no other special events planned as of yet except and Executive Committee meeting July 18. If we hit the mark by Wednesday morning, we are going to organize a press conference quickly. As for actually Maine Libertarian members, I do not have a figure yet.

**Connecticut:**

The Constitution State apologizes for the anti-constitutional and illibertarian actions of its Senators in recent weeks. Once the proud center of gun manufacturing, it now seems that little other than hot air is manufactured in Hartford.

The Libertarian Party of Connecticut held its Nominating Meeting for US Senate and US Congress, 2nd District, in May. The body nominated Rich Lion, past chair and several-time candidate for Manchester Board of Directors and State Rep - District 9, for US Senate. For US Congress, the body nominated Daniel Reale, who is a past chair of the LPCT and has run 3 times for US Congress.

The LPCT has been engaged in a Presidential ballot access drive, managed by Joshua Katz and co-coordinated by Katz and state chair Andrew Rule, with LNC funding and staff assistance. While the drive started off slowly and has faced several hurdles, including difficulty finding petitioners, Alex Arsennal has been hired as a contractor and has greatly improved signature collection. Some signatures have also been collected through Free and Equal, Inc. It remains difficult to bring volunteers into the drive, but volunteers have produced several hundred signatures. A larger volunteer effort would be useful.

Still in the works is the LPCT's lawsuit, together with the ACLU, regarding out-of-state petitioners. The court (US District) granted an injunction allowing the use of out-of-state petitioners during this cycle, and the case remains pending. The state has indicated a desire to stipulate to judgment if a reasonable compromise can be achieved, and our attorney Dan Barrett, together with counsel from Day Pitney, continues to work hard on this. Many thanks to Richard Winger, Bill Redpath, Dan Barrett, the ACLU-CT, and the many others who assisted in this work.

**New Jersey:**

The NJLP has grown its membership 56% from January 1st through the end of June. Both our Chair and Vice-Chair were in studio for the Libertarian Town Hall on CNN. The Chair recently spoke at Porcfest in New Hampshire. Our Summer Picnic was July 9th.

The NJLP is helping organize an "Educate the DNC" event in Philadelphia during the Democratic National Convention. The goal is to distribute LP literature to disgruntled Sanders supporters.

We are still collecting signatures for Presidential Ballot Access. We got off to a slow start but have allocated sufficient resources to complete the process with paid petitioners. Our deadline is August 1st. We should have 150% of the 800 required by the time of the LNC meeting.

We have 20 candidates on the ballot in New Jersey which we believe to be a record number.

**Vermont:**

Johnson/Weld are on the ballot in Vermont.

We have two state representative candidates:

Ted Schaft and V Chase.

**New York:**

There is not much to report other than the fact that the LPNY is in the midst of petitioning. The petitioning is falling way behind in numbers. I don't know if people are just not getting out to petition or they are just not turning them in. The pace has picked up a little bit but we need to crank it up into overdrive. With petitioning 1/3 over, we have 1/5 the minimum total needed.

We have five congressional candidates running. One is wholly within a county, so his petitions will not count toward Johnson's. The other four, if they get on the ballot, would represent 14,000 of the 15,000 needed. I have had no report concerning how they are doing.

We have a lawsuit filed against the BoE concerning allowing out of state witnesses. The hearing will be July 11, 2016 to determine if an injunction will be issued for the last half of the petition drive.

The NYS BoE is continuing their mismanagement of the Libertarian voter registration records. This will become an issue to be addressed after the petitioning period is over.