

BALLOT ACCESS COMMITTEE REPORT

5/24/16 – 7/12/16

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report submitted to the LNC by the Ballot Access Committee immediately prior to the Libertarian National Convention reported 32 states as completed: AK, AR, AZ, CA, CO, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IN, KS, LA, MD, MI, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NM, NC, ND, OK, OR, SC, TX, UT, VT, WV, WI & WY.

Since that report, the following states have been completed: IL, ME, PA, and SD.

States still in progress are, in order of deadline: WA, NJ, MA, NY, CT, DC, NH, OH, AL, TN, IA, MN, VA, KY, and RI.

Progress is tracked state-by-state to follow progress of each drive. The spreadsheet uses a 10% cushion above the minimum requirement, and then uses assumed or actual validity rates. According to the math, there are approximately 74,396 signatures left to collect for 50+DC access. At current petitioning rates, without any additional volunteer signatures and barring any significant rate increases, **\$175,000 - \$200,000 will be required to complete** the drives in all remaining states.

There are a number of important drives in-progress, which will be completed within the next month. **A critical date in our 50+DC goal is 8/10.**

We are facing a lot of competition for resources this year. Three other parties and one independent are consuming petitioner resources, as are issue petitions in other states.

We have found it necessary to ask the Executive Committee to increase encumbrances in a number of states, and will likely continue to need to do so as the drive continues. Increasing the ballot access budget would be, at a minimum, extremely beneficial, and perhaps required, to complete 50+DC.

BALLOT ACCESS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Voting members of the post-convention Ballot Access Committee are Ken Moellman (Chair), William Redpath, Ed Marsh, Mark Axinn, and Richard Winger.

Non-voting members are Paul Frankel, petitioner resource, and Christopher Thrasher, Johnson-Weld (JW16) liaison.

BALLOT ACCESS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the committee are being held. Meetings have been held on 6/7, 6/30, 7/7, and 7/14. The first meeting was to get situated and decide who else to add to the committee. After those appointments were made, the focus has been to collect information on the progress in each state, and to react to that information.

BALLOT ACCESS COMMITTEE REPORT

5/24/16 – 7/12/16

STATE BY STATE ANALYSIS – STATES COMPLETED SINCE 5/24/16

South Dakota was completed by the time the Ballot Access Committee met post-convention.

Illinois ended on 6/27. It was a nerve-racking close call until the final days of the drive. As production ramped up, petitioners were being told to stop approximately 2 or 3 days before the drive ended. The LNC had a target of 40,000 signatures, with the state party wishing for a target of 45,000 signatures. The final tally was approximately 53,000 signatures. The LP was not challenged, and we have successfully obtained ballot access in IL.

Pennsylvania ended early due to a win in court. Unfortunately, the remedy was delayed by the judge for a longer-than-hoped period, and because the remedy was unknown, we were forced to continue petitioning in PA to prevent putting ballot access at risk. By the time the legal requirement was reduced to 5,000 signatures, over 17,000 signatures had been collected. There are still outstanding balances to be paid for this drive.

Maine ended on 7/12. A voter registration drive was used to obtain ballot access, as Maine had independently pursued this avenue prior to the LNC's involvement. The lawsuit to extend time for registrations was won. The LNC invested (up-to) \$3,000 to assist (in lieu of a \$20,000 petition drive), and the JW16 team put people on the ground to run logistics. A number of bureaucratic and logistical hurdles were overcome. This was a great example of how teamwork lets LPME, LNC, and JW16 succeed in their mutual goals. On 7/12, LP Maine was informed by the Maine Attorney General, through legal counsel, that LPME had obtained party status.

STATE BY STATE ANALYSIS – STATES IN-PROGRESS AS OF 7/11/16

Washington State requires 1,000 valid signatures by 7/23. The drive is being led by M Carling. On 7/10, WA had collected 1427 signatures. An assumed 66% validity rate, with cushion, requires 1651 signatures. Using these numbers, the WA drive is **86.45% completed**. WA is aiming for 2,000 signatures to be safe. The committee is **not worried** about the completion of Washington State.

New Jersey requires 800 valid signatures by 8/1. It was reported on 7/12 that NJ had "about 1200" signatures collected. This drive is **94.66% completed** at this time. The committee is **not worried** about the completion of this drive. NJ has an out-of-state circulator ban, so we are depending on NJ LP to get the job done.

Massachusetts requires 10,000 valid signatures by 8/2. The primary contractor is Alex Arsenault. With approximately 15,482 signatures collected as of 7/12, the drive is **basically completed**.

New York requires 15,000 valid signatures by 8/2. The LNC has contracted with the LPNY Petitioning Committee to get the job done. As of 7/11, there were approximately 7,500 – 8,000 signatures collected. This drive is only **30.30% completed**, and **there is serious concern** regarding the pace of the drive in New York. More paid petitioners are being added as a result of outreach by the LNC.

BALLOT ACCESS COMMITTEE REPORT

5/24/16 – 7/12/16

Connecticut requires 7,500 valid signatures by **8/10**. The primary contractor is Arsenault. There are approximately 5400 raw signatures collected, and the drive is approximately **44.38% completed**. We have been informed that **the current rate of production is not sufficient** to complete the drive, and the primary contractor does not believe he can finish the entire drive. A mass-email asking for more paid petitioners was sent by the national office on 7/11.

Washington DC requires approximately 4,500 valid signatures by **8/10**. There is no primary contractor for this drive as of the authoring of this report on 7/11, and **the drive is in serious trouble** as it is only **9.27% completed** at this time. On 7/11, the LNC Executive Committee met via teleconference and voted to encumber funds for 2 additional district-wide candidates, which has the effect of increasing the pay-per-stop for petitioners and also increases the chances of re-obtaining ballot access in DC for 2018, which in-turn creates an easier path to have ballot access in 2020. Additionally, a mass-email asking for more paid petitioners was sent by the national office on 7/11.

New Hampshire requires 3,000 valid signatures by **8/10**. There have been a number of issues with this drive and it is also in real danger of failing. To the committee's knowledge, this drive is reported as **0.0% completed**, which is **unacceptable**. As a result, Nick Dunbar has been sent to NH, set to arrive on 7/13. Andy Burns is slated to join Nick Dunbar in NH after the LNC meeting. Additionally, JW16 is looking at sending resources. There is a **discrepancy in "which petition"** to use, as well, which has hopefully been resolved by the time you receive this report. The national office has also sent a mass-email asking for more help in NH.

Ohio requires 5,000 valid signatures by **8/10**. As of 7/11 we should have at least 4,100 raw signatures in Ohio. A large batch is due on Wednesday 7/13. Volunteer submissions have been lower-than-expected, so the **encumbrance will likely need to be increased to \$22,687.50**. Validity rates have suffered in the initial batches in Ohio but seem to have picked up significantly in subsequent batches. OH is **38.09% completed** and there is **slight concern** about the completion of Ohio. An additional contractor may be added, or the current contractor may be extended to finish up the Ohio petition.

Alabama requires 5,000 valid signatures by **8/18**. As of 7/7, there were 900 volunteer and 1175 paid raw signatures collected Alabama. Alabama is still spinning up at this time, with additional petitioners starting on the week of 7/11. AL is **27.51% completed** at this time. The committee is **slightly concerned** at this time.

Tennessee requires 275 valid signatures by **8/18**. As of 7/8, they had collected 523 raw signatures and on 7/11 they began the turn-in process. This means the TN drive **should be completed**. However, on 7/11 it was revealed that the **TN SoS is requiring additional signatures from Johnson and Weld**. Hopefully by the time this report is presented, LPTN and JW16 have resolved this issue.

Iowa requires 1500 valid signatures by **8/19**. As of 7/6, they had collected 1,291 signatures in a state-driven process. IA should be **52.12% completed** and appears to be on-pace for completion to the best of our knowledge.

Minnesota requires 2,000 valid signatures by **8/23**. This is an all-volunteer effort, and no information has been provided to the committee at this time.

BALLOT ACCESS COMMITTEE REPORT

5/24/16 – 7/12/16

Virginia requires 5,000 signatures by **8/26**. As of 7/11, there were approximately 5,000 raw signatures collected. The drive is **68.18% completed**.

Kentucky requires 5,000 signatures by **9/9**. As of 7/11, we have been informed that there are approximately 700 volunteer signatures. The drive is **9.55% completed**.

Rhode Island and Providence Plantations requires 1,000 valid signatures by **9/9**. No further information is available at this time.

MOTIONS PASSED BY THE COMMITTEE

The committee unanimously passed a motion (4-0) asking the LNC or LNC Chair, and/or the Johnson-Weld team, to fulfill the request from LP Illinois of \$7,500 to assist in paying off their debts to IL ballot access petitioners. **We ask the LNC to please address this motion at this meeting.**

FINANCIAL

The Ballot Access Committee does not have spending power, and accounting is not taking place within the committee. The exact financial information was not available at the time of the deadline for this report. LNC staff may be able to provide a supplemental report to give the status of the finances.

The overall cost of the petition drives will likely increase due to ballot access emergencies and changing conditions on the ground. The committee is committed to keeping costs as low as possible without failing to obtain access (we're not just asking the LNC to splash money around).

LONG TERM GOALS OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee is focused on completing 50+DC access until the final state is complete. After that time, the committee will re-assess its goals and purpose throughout the remainder of this LNC term.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken C. Moellman, Jr.
Ballot Access Committee Chair