**Candidate Support Committee**

* Erin Adams
* **Sam Goldstein, Chair**
* Tim Hagan
* Caryn Ann Harlos
* Jeff Hewitt
* Jim Turney

The original mission of the Candidate Support Committee was changed at the Spring 2018 LNC meeting to the following:

*6) Candidate Support Committee*

*The Candidate Support Committee will develop and make available to Libertarian Party candidates for public office an application for LNC financial support based on current standards approved by the LNC.*

*The Committee will also review applications and make recommendations to the LNC on their merits.*

*The Committee will review the standards within the first three months of a new LNC term and report any needed changes to the LNC for approval no later than the second LNC meeting of the term.*

*The Candidate Support Committee will develop, with support of LNC Staff, training for candidates and their staff both online and to be presented in LP training workshops. The Committee will also aid LNC Staff in the development of various campaign templates for websites, printed materials, etc that will be made available to LP candidates at little or no cost*

Through a combination of on-line meetings and emails, the CSC completed the first part of its new mandate by creating a Candidate Support Application which can be found here <https://www.lp.org/2018-application-candidate-support/>.

Since the publication of the application, the CSC has received four applications from candidates seeking financial support from the LNC: Craig Bowden (U.S. Senate UT), Lloyd Princeton (Congress NM), Jake Porter (Governor IA) and Dale Kerns (U.S. Senate PA).

The CSC found that the first two applicants, Craig Bowden and Lloyd Princeton, met the criteria set by the LNC for financial contributions to candidates and proposed the following email ballot:

  The LNC will provide $500 each to the campaigns of Craig
    Bowden (U.S. Senate UT) and Lloyd Princeton (U.S. House of
    Representatives NM) from the Candidate Support budget line.

Each candidate had asked for significantly more than $500 but budget constraints and the fact that neither of these races had ballot access implications caused the CSC to propose that amount in our motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

The CSC met again to consider the second set of applicants, Jake Porter and Dale Kerns.

Unfortunately, Mr. Kerns’ application indicated that he was not yet officially on the ballot for U.S. Senate for PA which is one of the major criteria set by the LNC for candidate support. The CSC informed Mr. Kerns that we could not consider his application at this time but encouraged him to resubmit the application to the new CSC once ballot status is attained later this year.

Mr. Porter’s application met the criteria set by the LNC and the CSC makes the following motion:

The LNC will provide $1000 to the campaign of Jake Porter (IA Governor) the Candidate Support budget line

The CSC proposes a higher amount for Mr. Porter’s campaign since it does have ballot access implications for the LP Iowa:

*We must achieve 2% in the Governor's race to maintain major party status.  Here is how major party status impacts ballot access:*

* *Reduces the signatures required from 1,500 to 1,000 for all statewide offices except Governor (unless we use special convention-see below)*
* *Eliminates the 2020 Presidential signature gathering requirement.  (We file a form and we get our Presidential nominee on the ballot)*
* *Allows us to have a Libertarian primary*
* *Ability to nominate candidates for unfilled spots in the primary by holding special conventions saving us petitioning for most all down ticket races (statewide, federal, state legislative, and county seats).  This allowed us to run a full slate for statewide and federal office for the first time in state party history.*

I also met with Candidate Support Specialist Cara Schultz and discussed a wide range of help she would like from the new Candidate Support Committee including many of the topics covered in the revised mission of the CSC. I strongly recommend the new LNC populate the CSC at the post convention LNC meeting with the goal of immediately working to implement candidate support beyond just financial contribution.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Candidate Support Committee.

Sam Goldstein, Chair