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From: chairman@tricitylibertarians.org
Sent: Saturday, November 23, 2019 8:41 PM
To: 'bourne@ilhousegop.org'
Cc: 'staterepterribryant@gmail.com'; 'butler@ilhousegop.org'; 'repcassidy@gmail.com'; 'caulkins@ilhousegop.org'; 'Chesney@ilhousegop.org'; 'davidsmeyer@ilhousegop.org'; 'demmer@ilhousegop.org'; 'sara@staterepsara.com'; 'repford@lashawnford.com'; 'repjgordon@gmail.com'; 'Halbrook@ilhousegop.org'; 'rephammond@macomb.com'; 'stephanie.kifowit@att.net'; 'staterepcamilleylilly@gmail.com'; 'McCombie@ilhousegop.org'; 'repdavidmcsweeney@gmail.com'; 'McDermed@ilhousegop.org'; 'repcmeier@gmail.com'; 'chrismiller2019gop@gmail.com'; 'murphy@ilhousegop.org'; 'staterepmoylan@gmail.com'; 'RepDPappas@gmail.com'; 'staterepsue@gmail.com'; 'sommer@mtco.com'; 'repyanspain@gmail.com'; 'repkatiestuart@gmail.com'; 'repwelch@emanuelchriswelch.com'; 'office@repkeithwheeler.org'; 'wilhour@ilhousegop.org'; 'repwillis77@gmail.com'; 'windhorst@ilhousegop.org'; 'repsamyngling@gmail.com'; 'info@repmikezalewski.org'; 'repconnor@gmail.com'; 'info@staterep40.com'; 'ann@repannwilliams.com'; 'office@repstavamurray.com'
Subject: Ballot Access Petitioning RE: HB3535 and HB3828

Representatives,

To begin, thank you for having the transparency to make yourselves via email, unlike some of your other colleagues.

2020 will mark the sixth time I've gone out circulating petitions on behalf of the Libertarian Party of Illinois, but my first time as the party's Political Director.

Over the past six years, there have been attempts on both sides of the aisle to reform the petition signatures required for new parties and independents to earn their ballot access for the general election.

In the past two cycles, I've been glad that our Libertarian county affiliates in McLean (since 2016) and Kankakee (since 2018) taken the initiative from the current 5% threshold required for recognized/major party status. McLean County earned their status as the result of Libertarian presidential candidate taking 6% of the county vote, with their status extended through 2022 as a result of 2010 gubernatorial candidate and former LPIL chairman Lex Green taking over 30% of the vote in the county treasurer race last November. They aim to extend that status through 2024. Kankakee County earned their status as a result of Libertarian state treasurer candidate (and now former Kankakee resident) Mike Leheney receiving just over 5% in his home county.

You see, as a part of having a major/recognized party status, there comes the benefit of fewer restrictions, which our county affiliates in McLean and Kankakee counties are currently enjoying. This should be a thing for all 102 counties and that doesn't happen without some significant reforms.

Reforms have been attempted for the past six years, only to be silenced by either House Speaker Michael Madigan, Senate President John Cullerton or both sides of the political duopoly in Springfield.

Let's go through the history:

February 13, 2013: Sen. Andy Manar introduces [Senate Bill 1624](#). It was referred to the Subcommittee on Election Law for a March 13, 2013 hearing, but it was postponed and never rescheduled. Session sine die on January 13, 2015. No co-sponsors.

January 13, 2015 to January 10, 2017: No attempts at proposed reform.

January 11, 2017: Sen. Kyle McCarter introduces [Senate Bill 63](#). Referred to Subcommittee on Election Law, never given a hearing. Session sine die on January 9, 2019. No co-sponsors.

January 26, 2017: Rep. Allen Skillicorn introduces House companion to SB63 in the form of [House Bill 762](#). Referred to Elections & Campaign Finance Committee on February 8, 2017. Referred to Ballot Access Subcommittee on March 6. No action taken. Session sine die January 8, 2019. David A. Welter co-sponsor. (Additional condition involved reducing new recognized/major party threshold from the current 5% to the Midwestern regional average of 2%, mirroring the 2% thresholds set in Iowa, Missouri and Indiana.)

February 15, 2019: Rep. Anne Stava-Murray files similar reforms in the form of [House Bill 3535](#). Referred to Rules and Executive committees earlier this year. Carol Ammons is a co-sponsor. Currently sits in Rules Committee as of March 29, 2019.

April 4, 2019: Skillicorn reintroduces his previous bill (minus the threshold reduction for new recognized/major parties) in the form of [House Bill 3828](#). Yet to have a committee appointment. Welter and Jonathan Carroll are co-sponsors.

I don't get why there are two opposing bills regarding the same issue with the same goal, but it's long overdue for this issue to be heard before whichever applicable committee exists and the entire General Assembly.

This isn't the first time the Libertarian Party of Illinois has fought long outdated election laws. We're the party who got an 86 year old election law declared unconstitutional via U.S. Circuit Court decision in [Libertarian Party of Illinois v. Scholz](#). A U.S. Circuit decision was ruled in our favor regarding a now-former state law passed in 2013 which banned licensed medical marijuana businesses from making campaign contributions to political candidates, PACs or other political committees, which was spearheaded by 2016 and 2018 comptroller candidate Claire Ball in [Ball v. Madigan](#). Meaning I'm not afraid to get another election law declared unconstitutional in Federal court, but I'd rather go about this through the legislative process instead of the judicial system.

I'm usually available most of the day every day, but things will be limited until around Christmas due to working a seasonal position for UPS. However, I can likely respond to email communications should there be a lull in deliveries.

For the first time in nearly seven years, I would certainly like to see the currently proposed legislation see the light of day and entered into a public forum before a committee and the media so everyone can see how ridiculous these petitioning thresholds for independents and new parties truly are and how they are long overdue for reform. (Much needed reforms in a state that views reform as a curse word.)

Thank you for your time.

Jake Leonard

Chapter Chairman | [Tri-Counties Libertarian Party](#)

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From: chairman@tricountylibertarians.org
Sent: Saturday, November 30, 2019 7:54 PM
To: 'batinick@ilhousegop.org'
Cc: 'dan@rep-danbrady.com'; 'RepMBristow@gmail.com'; 'Buckner@illinois26.com'; 'kburke@kellyburkerep36.org'; 'Cabello@ilhousegop.org'; 'repdebconroy@gmail.com'; 'RepTCH48@gmail.com'; 'fred@fredcrespo.com'; 'johnd@ilga.gov'; 'repdeluca@sbcglobal.net'; 'Info@repdidech.com'; 'Durkin@ILHouseGOP.org'; 'repedlyallen@gmail.com'; 'marcus@repevans.com'; 'state.repflowers@comcast.net'; 'repfrese@adams.net'; 'staterepgabel@robbyngabel.com'; 'grant@ilhousegop.org'; 'staterepgreenwood@gmail.com'; 'will@repгуzzardi.com'; 'RepHalpin@gmail.com'; 'repsonyaharper@gmail.com'; 'Repbarbarahernandez@gmail.com'; 'repehernandez@yahoo.com'; 'repjayhoffman@gmail.com'; 'repfranhurley@gmail.com'; 'repjones.jones@gmail.com'; 'repymkalish@gmail.com'; 'RepLaPointe@gmail.com'; 'rep.theresamah@gmail.com'; 'repmanley@gmail.com'; 'mike@repmikemarron.com'; 'info@repjoycemason.com'; 'mazzochi@ilhousegop.org'; 'StateRepDebbiem@gmail.com'; 'staterepmoeller@gmail.com'; 'info@repbobmorgan.com'; 'Repmorrison54@gmail.com'; 'staterepmussman@gmail.com'; 'district@repaaronortiz.com'; 'info@repdeliaramirez.com'; 'repnreitz@gmail.com'; 'lamont@lamontjrobinson.com'; 'justin@repslaughter.com'; 'repsmith34@gmail.com'; 'swanson@ilhousegop.org'; 'office@repcurtisjarverii.com'; 'illinois32district@gmail.com'; 'arthurt@ilga.gov'; 'ugaste@ilhousegop.org'; 'repunes@gmail.com'; 'staterepkarinavilla@gmail.com'; 'ilrep21@gmail.com'; 'contact@staterepwalker53.com'; 'statereplarrywalshjr@gmail.com'; 'weber@ilhousegop.org'; '41districtdirector@gmail.com'; 'Assistance@StateRepWest.com'; 'RepWilliamsOffice@gmail.com'; 'StateRepYednock@gmail.com'
Subject: Ballot Access Petitioning RE: HB3535 and HB3828
Attachments: Email To ILGA Members 20191123.pdf

Representatives,

In similar fashion to my initial run of emails to 38 of your colleagues on November 23, thank you for making available some means to contact you via email.

I have attached my November 23 correspondence regarding the current legislation to reform the petitioning threshold for ballot access for new parties and independents.

I'll go through this briefly:

This upcoming cycle will mark the sixth time I've circulated petition on behalf of the Libertarian Party of Illinois, my second cycle working in our Political Division and my first in official capacity of divisional director. I hate it each time because of our current outdated election laws which require new parties and independents to collect anywhere from five times the threshold granted to the Democratic parties (to the 10 times that are actually filed to ensure they can survive a challenge) for statewide offices to as many as 150 times the threshold granted to both parties in more local races (the biggest offenders requiring over 50 times the threshold being Cook County, all of its collar counties, Whiteside County and all of the counties which comprise of the Metro-East region of the Greater St. Louis metropolitan area).

While it is nice that we have fewer restrictions with our county affiliates in McLean and Kankakee counties due to earning major/established party status, thus requiring fewer signatures, our election laws need reform – something that members of this General Assembly has been doing since 2013, but to no avail, because they’ve been silenced by House Speaker Michael Madigan and Senate President John Cullerton – and these are proposed reforms brought up by both sides of the aisle, starting with Sen. Andy Manar in 2013 and currently with the bills I’m currently writing about, the former being from Rep. Anne Stava-Murray (co-sponsor Carol Ammons) and the latter being from Rep. Allen Skillicorn (co-sponsors Jonathan Carroll, David Welter).

I would rather for this to be resolved through the legislative process instead of through a costly battle leading up to Federal court. During the tenure of my predecessor Scott Schluter, we were – through Federal courts – successful in getting an 86-year-old election law requiring a full slate to run for office (aka “full slate requirement) deemed unconstitutional and stricken from election law. We were also to have a 2013 law regarding campaign finance regulations on medicinal marijuana businesses – a law that banned those businesses to make campaign contributions to political candidates, PACs and other political committees. That was spearheaded by Schluter (who was running for state representative at the time) and eventual 2016 and 2018 comptroller candidate Claire Ball. Both of those losses were at the hands of former Attorney General Lisa Madigan.

It’s time to eliminate these outdated election laws once and for all. I may not know all of the history behind all of these restrictive election laws, but I know it was intended to keep the Communist Party from running for political office. It’s been nearly 90 years since these laws were passed and last I checked, the Communist Party doesn’t have an active presence anymore.

My availability may be quite limited due to working a seasonal position for UPS, but I can communicate via email the best I can until I can pick up a phone and talk for a little bit.

Thank you for your time.

Jake Leonard

Chapter Chairman | **Tri-Counties Libertarian Party**

BOD Member, CD-13 SCC and Political Division Director | **Libertarian Party of Illinois**

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