



March 18, 2020

Illinois State Board of Elections  
2329 S. MacArthur Blvd.  
Springfield, IL 62704

Dear Board of Elections:

The Libertarian Party of Illinois (LPIL) has been organizing paid and volunteer petitioners throughout the state to collect over 25,000 valid signatures to qualify our statewide candidates (President/Vice President & US Senate) for the November 2020 general election ballot under Illinois law.

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus and the disaster proclamation that Governor Pritzker issued on March 9, 2020, we are unable to start our petition drive on the March 24 start date. As a party that has had nearly constant success in qualifying for the ballot, we request that the Governor, General Assembly, and the Board of Elections understand the effect this public health emergency has had on people's willingness to be approached by a stranger, let alone take a pen or clipboard. Although we think our petitioners are healthy, and they would be benched at the first sign of illness, the virus is apparently often spread by people who are asymptomatic.

This situation makes it impossible for our candidates to attain ballot access in Illinois in 2020 under current law.

LPIL has been active in Illinois for over 45 years, consistently running candidates, lobbying the General Assembly, and holding outreach events, thereby having established our regular participation in the democratic process. In that 45 year period, the Libertarian Party of Illinois has successfully petitioned for statewide ballot access in every presidential election, and all but three midterm elections. But for this public health emergency, we would attain statewide ballot access again in 2020.

Additionally, at the LPIL Convention on March 14, 2020, we nominated candidates for all eighteen congressional districts and several seats in the General Assembly. Each of those candidates would need to circulate a separate petition to attain ballot access in 2020.

In light of Governor Pritzker's disaster proclamation, **and in the interest of public health**, we ask that the Board of Elections waive the petitioning requirements under current law and determine that LPIL's candidates qualify for the 2020 general election ballot. In the alternative, we request that the Board of Elections work with us to establish a method for LPIL's candidates to qualify for the 2020 general election ballot that does not require face-to-face petitioning and is reasonable under the circumstances.

Given the imminence of the March 24 start date for petitioning under current law, we request the courtesy of a reply at your earliest convenience, and no later than March 24, 2020.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you to resolve this matter in a manner that protects the interests of both LPIL and the State of Illinois.

Daniel Fishman  
Executive Director  
The Libertarian National Committee

Bennett Morris  
Chair  
The Libertarian Party of Illinois

1444 Duke Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: (800) ELECT-US  
Fax: (202) 333-0072  
Email: [info@LP.org](mailto:info@LP.org)



March 18, 2020

Illinois State Board of Elections  
100 W. Randolph, Suite 14-100  
Chicago, IL 60601

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March 18, 2020

Office of the Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

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Office of the Governor  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph, 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601

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