

PROGRESS REPORT

STEVE DASBACH, NATIONAL CHAIR

Live radio remote broadcasts from our convention? *It's happening!*
West Virginia & North Carolina? *Done at last.*
Another Republican defection? *Details below . . .*

Dear friend,

Good news! This is probably the *last* letter you'll receive about ballot access this year.

This is also your **last opportunity** to have your name included on the prestigious **Committee of 96** plaque or the **Ballot Access Strike Force** plaque at the national headquarters. If you've already contributed — thank you!

The plaques will be unveiled at the Presidential nominating convention in early July . . .

**So the heroes of our 1996 ballot access drive can be
proudly displayed for the whole party!**

By the time you read this letter we'll be finished petitioning in . . .

✱ **North Carolina:** 85,088 signatures collected. Cost: \$90,121.53.
And that will be state #31.

✱ **Oklahoma:** 75,039 signatures collected. Cost: \$67,668.19.
That's state #32.

✱ **West Virginia:** 18,478 signatures collected. Cost: \$41,530.97.
That's state #33.

✱ **Florida:** A whopping 98,394 signatures collected. Cost: \$93,000.

That's state #34 — one of the toughest.

Plus, we finished petitioning in Maine. That's state #35. And there are drives underway in Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio — states 36, 37, and 38.

States 39 through 50 should fall quickly after the convention — with New York and Minnesota wrapping up by late July or early August (because of late legal start-dates).

What does all of this mean? *It means that . . .*

The Presidential Campaign season is nearly here!

It's the time every four years when interest in the Libertarian Party is *greatest*. When . . .

- ✳ We get the *most* media attention.
- ✳ The *most* inquiries.
- ✳ And the *greatest* influx of new members.

Think about what that could mean for our growth.

- ✳ We've already had *more* new members join the LP in the last two years than in any previous two years in the history of the party.
- ✳ And *more* media coverage than ever before.
- ✳ And *more* electoral success than ever before.

And now we have an opportunity to achieve **more growth in four short months** than we did in the previous two years combined!

During the next four to five months, we can take the Libertarian Party to the next level of success.

Look at what we're doing

- ✳ By the time you receive this letter we'll have mailed another 200,000 pieces of membership recruitment mail! This is the largest single mailing in the history of the party and should bring in thousands of new members!
- ✳ These new members will be available to support our campaigns during the final crucial months before election day! *And . . .*

We already have 12 media outlets signed up to cover our convention — and that's *without* much promotion! In the next few weeks, we will contact hundreds of other journalists and ask them to cover the convention too.

This will be the best-covered convention in party history!

- ✳ We're already booking radio talk show hosts to **broadcast their shows live from the convention floor!**
- ✳ Magazine and newspaper reporters will interview our candidates and delegates.
- ✳ C-SPAN will **broadcast our convention**. That's national TV coverage!

We're erecting a spectacular backdrop in the main convention hall. It's 14 feet high and 40 feet wide, and prominently features our 800# and our World Wide Web address. **They'll be seen by hundreds of thousands — *perhaps millions* — of people!**

We're preparing to respond to tens of thousands of convention-generated inquiries. This could mean thousands more new members in just a few short weeks!

Never before in the history of the party has so much been done to maximize the returns from a presidential campaign!

And while we're doing all of this preparation, party progress continues on all fronts.

In April, *Glamour* magazine printed a survey and asked: "Does America need a third party?" A follow-up question asked: "My ideal third party would be . . ." and gave three possible answers:

- 1. Libertarian:** a proponent of radically reduced government intervention.
- 2.** Fiscally conservative but at the same time socially liberal.
- 3.** An advocate for the lowest-income members of society.

Take note: Two of the three options *Glamour* gave its readers were Libertarian! (And we rightly deserve the third as well, even though *Glamour* probably meant it to favor traditional big government!)

The Libertarians are coming, the Libertarians are coming!

But that's not all. Our media attention has continued to accelerate throughout the year!

In February we had 57 media contacts. **Then 58 in March, and 68 in April!**

✳ On April 26th the Washington, DC *Metro Herald* published an entire LP media release, verbatim, like it was an article specifically written for the newspaper! That's happening more and more often.

✳ On March 29th Larry Hicks, a columnist for *The York Dispatch*, proclaimed that he "... **may vote Libertarian this year,**" and blasted the Democrats and Republicans while praising us!

✳ And on April 11, *Centralia Sentinel* (Illinois), Managing Editor David L. Felts wrote

"For someone fed up with the tired rhetoric and outright lies of the political establishment, **Libertarian arguments are as welcome as a cool breeze on a hot summer day.**" And

"... it's time people realized that there's a party that values free thinking, responsibility, and most of all, liberty. It may not make one bit of difference in this election; but **I'm voting Libertarian.**"

More people are looking beyond the horse race aspects of election day. They're realizing that we must do the slow, difficult work of building a new major party based on individual liberty and self-responsibility.

Just look at this letter I received in early May:

Dear Steve,

Yesterday I resigned my positions with the Central Committee of the Summit County (Ohio) Republican Party; as campaign manager for the Bryan C. Williams for State Representative campaign; and as a campaign manager for Joyce George for Congress (a National Republican Congressional Committee targeted campaign). It has been a long journey for me to come to this point, but an inevitable one, I think.

No amount of hard work within the Republican Party, I found, can cause it to reform. The only chance for reforming our present political environment can come from competition . . .

When I read the Libertarian platform several months ago, I thought that these are the things the Republican Party used to say but not believe in; now

they do not even say them. If those views are to receive any voice, it is left to the Libertarian Party to say them.

. . . . the Republican Party does not share the Libertarian Party's belief in the virtue of the free market. And no political party which holds the most important civil right, the right to property, in such disdain — the Democratic Party — can be said to believe in the importance of civil liberties. **That is why I'm joining the Libertarian Party.**

Steve, I look forward to helping you make the Libertarian Party the majority party of the twenty-first century.

Cordially, *James A. Damask*

The Libertarians are coming, the Libertarians are coming!

And now, more good news

Our Project Manager, Kris Williams, just told me **we've completed our ballot drive in West Virginia!** That means we'll have an LP gubernatorial candidate on the ballot — for the first time ever.

**And if we get 1% in that race,
we'll never have to petition again!**

That means one of our worst ballot access obstacles will be gone. Forever. This is just one more example of the building-block approach to progress we've taken over the past two years. But that's not all

Kris also said we've finished North Carolina as well! Now, our petitioners are dispersing to work on drives in Virginia, Kentucky, and Connecticut.

But even that's not all! Convention organizer Don Ernsberger just called Bill Winter to say that C-SPAN is expanding its coverage of our convention!

-  They're adding a fifth camera crew!
-  They might cover our 25th Anniversary Banquet too, and add extra interview sessions. And . . .
-  They want an LP representative to participate in their Sunday morning news discussion!

It's a great time to be a Libertarian!

But also a difficult time.

We still have to pay for our Florida ballot drive. We owe \$37,466.46 to National Voter Outreach, our petitioning firm, and right now they're slowing down their efforts until we can catch up with our payments.

✳ **If we want to be on the ballot in 40 states by the convention, and free up our money after the convention for advertising, *then we must pay those bills now.***

If we wait, we'll eat into our advertising budget in July and August — when we need to start our campaign to get included in the Presidential Debates.

But that's not all. Ross Perot is struggling with his efforts, and he's raising petitioning prices in a desperate effort to make up with money what he lacks in popular support.

This means that the longer we wait to finish Florida, the greater the chance that Perot will buy our petitioners away, and that we'll bust our budget to keep going.

We must pay for Florida now. We can't wait.

But that's just one of the problems we face as we work to maximize this great explosion of opportunity!

✳ **We must send out hundreds of media kits to journalists who may cover our convention! Cost: Thousands of dollars.**

✳ **We must install ISDN lines at the convention hotel so radio talk show hosts can do live broadcasts. For some, we'll need to provide hotel rooms.**

✳ **With every passing day, as more and more talk show hosts and journalists sign aboard, **our expenditures grow larger and larger.****

As I've said before — *success is threatening to strangle us!* We're desperately trying to ride a wave of public interest that may be larger than anything we've ever experienced before.

We can't afford to miss this wave. Our success in Campaign 96 requires immediate and continued support from all of us.

Can you send your best contribution today, so that we can

✳ **Pay for the Florida, Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and New York ballot drives and finish them before the convention?**

- ✳ Send out hundreds of media kits to journalists?
- ✳ Install ISDN lines at the convention site and provide support for visiting journalists?
- ✳ **Help us build cash reserves so we can buy advertising time *immediately* following the convention?**

To do all this, we must raise \$150,000 in the next 30 days, and every month thereafter. If we don't . . .

We could fail in our drive for 50-state ballot status.

- ✳ And we could **embarrass ourselves** with insufficient technical or personal support for the visiting journalists at our convention.
- ✳ The media coverage of our convention could end up as *whimper*, rather than a roar that will be heard all across America.

Now is not the time to wait. The opportunities are here *now* — and we must seize them *now*. Time and time again we've shown that if you provide the resources, we get the job done.

Can you send a contribution today for \$1,000, \$500, \$250, \$100, \$75, \$50, \$35, or whatever you can afford?

If you do, I'll report back next month with even more good news about our accomplishments, and about our specific plans for advertising and outreach in the weeks following the convention. (I'm talking about advertising and outreach that you'll be able to see with your own eyes and hear with your own ears!)

This is an exciting time. But it can be more exciting still, depending on what we do now.

Thank you for your continued support.

Steve Dasbach

Steve Dasbach

Chair, Libertarian National Committee

PS: If you contribute \$1,000 to this letter, you will be added to our exclusive **"Committee of 96"** memorial plaque in our Watergate offices.

Or, contribute \$100 or more and we'll add you to our **"Ballot Access Strike Force"** plaque. This is your last chance this year to be a part of the

historical legacy of the 1996 campaign — one of the *crucial people who made it possible* for the LP to be the first 3rd party in history to get on all 50 state ballots two presidential elections in a row.

PPS: It is absolutely essential that we continue to **hammer away** at these ballot access barriers. And the only way we can do that is by dumping mountains of signatures on the election law bureaucrats.

Why? Because the Supreme Court just refused to hear our North Carolina ballot access lawsuit.

This marks the 15th straight time the Supreme Court has refused to hear an LP ballot access case.

It's clear that Democratic and Republican judges won't make the system more fair, so we must ***break open the process through sheer relentless effort***. No one is going to pave the way for us. We must do it all ourselves. We must do it now.

PPPS: And let's make sure that no American can miss the ***roar*** that comes from our convention in July. The opportunity is there. *Help us seize it!*

PPPPS: Bill Winter just told me that the *Danville Register* (Virginia) has signed up to cover the convention. And WBPS Radio in Boston, Massachusetts is interested in doing a live remote. *The surge is on!*

Libertarian National Committee, Inc.

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■ Will our presidential candidate **BLAST** out of the Convention with a media roar . . . or sneak out quietly?

■ Will the LP be ready for an **EXPLOSION** of opportunity . . . or get caught unprepared?



