



What is Rush Limbaugh saying about us?

(And the impact of the unbelievable North Carolina court decision.)

Dear friend,

The good news just keeps coming in . . .

- ✳ On October 4th National Director Perry Willis appeared on **national television** on CNN to talk about Ross Perot's plans for a new party.
- ✳ On October 8th the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* wrote: "Several current political parties could stake claims to the title of America's third party, **but the Libertarians make the best case.**"
- ✳ On October 13th the *Miami Herald* headlined a column: "**Libertarians: The Real Third Party.**"
- ✳ On October 24th the *Chicago Tribune* ran a major article about us in its front section. It took up most of one page and had several big charts showing the LP's record of yearly growth in registrations, memberships, and candidates on the ballot.

And on October 26th Rush Limbaugh responded to Ross Perot's creation of the Independence Party with the following comment:

**"There already is a third party out there.
It's the Libertarians."**

- ✳ **The media is starting to recognize us**, and the reason for this is clear — we've worked hard and *earned* it.

But media recognition isn't the only area where we're making progress. We're also streaking ahead in **ballot access** and **membership growth**:

- ✴ A recent 45,000-piece membership mailing by National Director Perry Willis has brought in **hundreds of new members** as well as enthusiastic phone calls and fan mail!

In fact, some of these new members have even asked to buy bulk copies of this recruitment letter to put in doctors offices and give to their friends! **And now we're mailing this package to another 100,000 people!**

But that's not all . . .

- ✴ **The Arizona registration drive is done!** We now have *permanent* ballot status there! And that's our 26th state, meaning **we're more than half way through with our drive for 50 state ballot status!**

Now there are close to 20,000 registered Libertarians in Arizona, nearly 1% of all registrations in the state! This achievement has prompted an *explosion* of positive media attention in Arizona, with one clear theme, **the Libertarian Party is on the move!**

And there's more . . .

- ✴ An organizing effort is also underway in **Vermont** to meet the simple ballot access requirements there.

And that will be state number 27!

- ✴ Expert petitioner, Al Anders, fresh from his work in Arizona, has gone to **North Dakota** to brave the chill arctic winds and put us on the ballot in that state.

And that will be number 28!

- ✴ Kay Matthews is doing the same thing in **Kentucky** — driving down on the weekends from her home in Indiana, and working to put us on the ballot in the Blue Grass state.

And that will be number 29!

- ✴ But best of all — National LP Membership Coordinator Scott Kohlhaas has taken a leave of absence from his job at LP headquarters and gone to **Alaska** to qualify that state. He's doing the entire thing for free and he already has 2,730 of the 3,879 required signatures.

That will be state number 30!

But there's even more to what Al Anders, Kay Matthews and Scott Kohlhaas are

doing than I've mentioned here. Keep reading and I'll tell you what makes their contributions so special.

And their work is only *part* of it!

- ✳ We've also spent another \$11,330 in **Oklahoma** to collect an additional 6,337 signatures. We now have 23,737 toward the 71,073 signatures we need.

That will be number 31!

- ✳ And thanks to the dedication of our members, we've been able to raise the \$10,000 that we had to have in order to sign a contract with National Voter Outreach for the crucial **West Virginia** drive.

And that will be state number 32!

Signature by signature, and state by state, we're beating back the barriers that the Democrats and Republicans have built to protect themselves.

And they don't like it one bit!

First the Alabama governor signed a bad ballot access law he had *promised* to veto.

And now we've *lost* a major ballot access lawsuit in the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals that by every right we should have won.

**This may be one of the worst decisions
we've ever had on a ballot access issue.**

Let me tell you what they did. The court ruled in favor of . . .

- ✳ A law which says that voters can **only** register as independents or as a member of a "qualified" party. That means **Republican or Democrat**. Nothing else!
- ✳ And a law which says that a party must poll a whopping **10% for governor** in order to remain on the ballot!

The decision on registrations means that North Carolina will remain one of the 23 states where people *can't* register as Libertarians.

- ✳ **But that's not all.** Their decision means that the LP will now have to spend a whopping \$74,000 to qualify North Carolina for the ballot again . . .

. . . in spite of the fact that we polled **4% for governor in 1994**, and more than **10% for several state legislative races!**

That's essentially a \$74,000 government raid on the Libertarian Party's treasury!

But it gets worse. In arriving at this horrible decision, the court made gross factual errors. I'll explain a few of those mistakes, so you'll understand exactly how *wrong-headed* their decision was. They argued that . . .

- ✧ **The 10% we received in legislative races should *not* qualify us in those particular districts.** Why? The judges said the Supreme Court upheld a Texas ballot access law in 1974 that had no provision for qualifying in just one district.

But they're wrong! The Supreme Court didn't even *consider* this issue in that case — and Texas *does* in fact have provisions for "district" qualifying!

- ✧ **They ruled it *is* constitutional to require us to poll 10% of the vote to remain on the ballot.** Why? They said the Supreme Court upheld a 20% requirement in Georgia in 1991.

But they got it wrong again! The 20% requirement wasn't even an issue in that Georgia case! (I wonder — did they even bother to *read* that case?)

- ✧ **And then they botched it *another time*!** They said the 4th Circuit Court had previously upheld a 10% requirement in West Virginia.

Strike three! In fact the requirement *wasn't* an issue in that case either. And to top it all off, the West Virginia retention requirement is really 1%, not 10%!

The 4th Circuit is either the judicial equivalent of the Keystone Cops . . .

. . . or these Democratic and Republican judges have made a *conscious decision* to protect their own parties, in spite of the law — or the virtues of our case.

Yes, these errors do give us a reason to ask for reconsideration, and we can appeal to the Supreme Court. But this decision also means that **we must now begin petitioning in North Carolina**, or risk 50 state ballot status.

- ✧ **We should have been handed North Carolina for free, and we may still get it via appeal, but not until after the 1996 campaign has passed. So that means we must spend \$74,000 to attain North Carolina ballot status right now!**

And we have no choice.

We must all be clear on this: Our ability to continue generating the kind of positive media

response described at the beginning of this letter . . .

. . . as well as our right to claim that we are America's *third* party . . .

. . . and that all others are *pretenders* . . .

. . . rests on our ability to qualify for the ballot in all 50 states.

And North Carolina is the crucial test of whether or not we can do that!

✧ We must not only fund this \$74,000 drive, but we must also *continue* to fund the on-going drives in West Virginia, Oklahoma, and Nebraska, as well as begin Florida no later than January 1st!

We're up against it!

Which is why the work of Al Anders, Kay Mathews, and Scott Kohlhas is so *crucial*. Al and Kay (both professional petitioners) are deferring payment until next year to help us have the money to begin North Carolina now, and Scott Kohlhas is donating his work in Alaska for the same reason.

✧ But their contributions aren't enough. Clearly, the only solution to this problem is for us to raise the \$74,000 we need for North Carolina, plus \$35,000 that we still have to raise to finish the other drives we've started.

Can you help by making an *additional* contribution . . .

. . . so that we can get North Carolina going while keeping all of our other drives alive?

If you've already contributed \$1,000 to the ballot drives, then you're on our **Committee of '96 Memorial Plaque**, or the **Ballot Access Strike Force** plaque if you've contributed at least \$100. We thank you. Anything additional you can do to keep the ball rolling will be doubly appreciated.

✧ And if you haven't joined either of these two efforts then we want to encourage you to do so now —

✧ \$100 makes you a member of the **Ballot Access Strike Force**.

✧ \$1,000 makes you a member of the elite **Committee of '96**.

Either way, your support will be **memorialized forever** on two special plaques in the LP headquarters at the Watergate.

✧ But contributions of *any size* will do a lot to make our drives a success — \$75, \$50, \$25, or whatever you can afford.

Now is a *crucial* time for our party.

If you can help with a contribution for the North Carolina ballot drive, please do so quickly, because we don't have any time to spare.

Sincerely,



Steve Dasbach

Chair, National Libertarian Party

PS — Rush Limbaugh says we're America's legitimate third party — but the only way he'll be able to *keep saying* that is if we make the ballot in all 50 states.

But deadlines are looming! That's why I want to encourage you again to join either the Ballot Access Strike Force at \$100, or the Committee of '96 at \$1,000. Your help is urgently needed! And your generosity will be commemorated for future generations of Libertarians on our . . .

✧ **Ballot Access Strike Force** Plaque (\$100 gift).

✧ **Prestigious Committee of '96** Plaque (\$1,000 gift).

PPS — Ross Perot just spent \$700,000 getting on the ballot in *one* state — California. That's more than we'll spend to get on *all 50 states*. **Remember, your money is well spent.** We pinch our pennies.

PPPS — If there *was* a hidden agenda behind the 4th Circuit court's decision to keep us off the ballot then let's make sure they don't get to **enjoy** their little victory.

Let's make sure the election bureaucrats in North Carolina have to count *each and every one* of those 74,000 signatures. **It's up to you.** Your contribution is our budget. Thanks again.



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PROGRESS REPORT

The \$74,000 Travesty of Justice

How the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals' shameful comedy of errors will cost us \$74,000 — and could put our 50-state ballot status in jeopardy.

■ **Plus: What is Rush Limbaugh saying about us?**



