

LNC's 2004 Ballot Access Plan

At its September 13, 2003, meeting in Denver, Colorado, the Libertarian National Committee (LNC) approved the following ballot access plan.

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. The final goal of this plan, and all subsequent ballot access plans, is to transfer ballot access responsibilities from the LNC to state parties.
2. We must assume limited resources. As such, in the interim we must prioritize which states to assist, and how much to assist. In effect, this means determining which states will not get LNC assistance in the absence of sufficient funding.
3. We will not spend a single cent in any single state until we have achieved the financial means to complete the state. Money spent on unsuccessful Ballot Access measures is wasted.
4. Our intent is to assist states in achieving ballot access, not to do it for them.
5. States must submit written plans for their individual ballot access, including their estimates and commitments of performance, timelines, and milestones.
6. Our actual expenditures of support will depend upon states performing or exceeding their written plans.

PRIORITIZATION:

It will be the LNC's job to prioritize the states that receive our assistance. We have attempted to do this in a manner consistent with the Strategic Plan.

Some of the factors included in the prioritization algorithm are as follows:

1. Party access versus candidate access. States where the LP gets status for all candidates should receive priority over states where only the candidate does.
2. Party label on ballot: If the LP is listed on the ballot, as opposed to independent, that should be a factor.
3. Ballot retention possibility. Whether or not ballot access through election results is achievable should be a factor.

4. Demographics. We need to factor in how many voters we're enabling to vote for a Libertarian candidate.
5. Past candidate history. States that have historically run lots of LP candidates should receive priority.

DIFFICULTY FACTORS:

Estimating costs depends upon more factors than just count of signatures. Difficulty needs to be factored into estimates of costs for petitioning.

1. Length of petitioning window. We feel it is completely in order to expect states with very long petitioning windows to gather more signatures than states with small windows. Likewise, states with very short windows will need to muster more support in a shorter time to achieve ballot access.
2. Primary screenout provides an additional burden on petitioning, increasing effort and costs, and reducing yields.
3. Demographics. We need to factor in how many voters we're enabling to vote for a Libertarian candidate.
4. Past candidate history. States that have historically run lots of LP candidates should receive priority.

BUILDING A WORKING PRIORITY LIST

A chart beginning on page 5 attempts to prioritize the states requiring assistance. The following are the parameters and factors used:

Determining the assistance threshold

The base signature obligation is 40 per member in the state as of 6/30/2003. The membership number does not include subscribers to LP News. Although earlier numbers of 35 signatures per member were discussed in the SPT, our membership is down since, then and resources are more limited. The following factors adjust that number based upon difficulty factors.

A factor is applied based upon the length of the petitioning window, calculated as length in days / 120. The minimum factor is 0.8 and the maximum is 1.2.

If the state has a primary screenout, a primary screenout factor of 0.8 is used. Otherwise, the factor is 1.

The net member signature obligation is determined by multiplying the base obligation by the petitioning length factor and the primary screenout factor.

The assistance threshold is determined by multiplying the number of members times the net signature obligation.

The LNC share of costs is determined by multiplying the LNC Share signatures by \$1.50 per signature (the assumed cost per signature) then dividing the interim cost by the primary screenout factor. It should be assumed that petition gathering with a primary screenout is more expensive.

Assigning the group code

- If a state already has ballot access, it will be group 4.
- If a states assistance threshold is higher than the number of raw signatures needed, it is group 3, and is not eligible for LNC assistance.
- If a state is eligible for assistance, but feels it can obtain ballot access without LNC approval, it is group 2.
- Only states in group 1 are prioritized.

Assigning priorities within group 1

In order to assign relative priority within group 1, the priority is calculated as the result of multiple rankings and a factor.

Total cost ranking, from 1 to 11.

Ranking of ballot access cost to LNC per Congressional seat within the state.

Ranking of total Congressional delegation for the state.

Ranking of ballot access cost to LNC per member within state.

Ranking of percent of total ballot access cost provided by LNC.

The total of above rankings is multiplied by a factor of either 1 or 2, dependent upon whether or not the ballot access provides only the Presidential candidate or the LP ballot access.

The resultant weighted ranking provides a measure of priority, but is subject to feedback and modification.

CONCLUSIONS:

According to the above criteria and from information contained in the spreadsheet, only 11 states qualify for assistance in ballot access.

The relative priority within this group of 11 is not necessarily fixed. Since we estimate that Oklahoma will cost approximately \$120,000, and that the total cost will be \$350,000, and that the agreed stricture is that the LNC will expend no funds until enough funds to finish the drive are assured, Oklahoma would only be funded if we achieve our fundraising goal. Therefore, if we raised \$250,000, Oklahoma would be dropped, even though it is NOT priority 11. Likewise, even though Texas is priority four, it would be the second state to be dropped in absence of sufficient fundraising.

Every state can improve its priorities by committing to be responsible for more than the assistance threshold we've already determined. Ohio is a good example of this: The Ohio LP has recently estimated that it will only need \$5,000 to \$8,000 of assistance, even though it has qualified for \$30,000.

State	Collected	Start	Deadline	Raw Signatures	LNC Share Signatures	Assistance % of Total	Estimated Cost	Cost per Congressional Seat	Cost per member in state	Total Cost Ranking	Cost per Congressional Seat Ranking	Congressional Delegation Size Ranking	Cost Per Member Ranking	% of Total Assistance Ranking	Total Ranking	No Party BA Penalty	Weighted Ranking	Ordinal Ranking (Priority)
Connecticut		1/1/2004	8/7/2004	12,525	765	6.11%	\$1,147.50	\$229.50	\$4.68	1	1	5	1	1	9	2	18	1
Kentucky		1/1/2004	8/26/2004	8,350	2,062	24.69%	\$3,093.00	\$515.50	\$23.61	2	2	4	2	2	12	2	24	2
Ohio	35,100	5/1/2003	11/1/2003	53,924	20,132	37.33%	\$30,198.00	\$1,677.67	\$42.89	9	4	3	5	3	24	1	24	2
Texas		3/3/2004	5/17/2004	76,052	47,687	62.70%	\$89,413.13	\$2,794.16	\$80.70	10	6	1	7	7	31	1	31	4
Illinois		3/15/2004	6/21/2004	41,750	17,576	42.10%	\$26,364.00	\$1,387.58	\$35.77	8	3	2	4	4	21	2	42	5
South Dakota	2,850	8/1/2003	8/3/2004	13,968	12,336	88.32%	\$18,504.00	\$18,504.00	\$544.24	6	9	9	9	9	42	1	42	5
North Dakota	0	9/2/2003	9/3/2004	11,690	10,394	88.91%	\$15,591.00	\$15,591.00	\$577.44	5	10	9	10	10	44	1	44	7
Oklahoma	2,500	8/1/2003	5/1/2004	86,474	79,370	91.78%	\$119,055.00	\$23,811.00	\$804.43	11	11	5	11	11	49	1	49	8
Maine	0	5/31/2004	8/9/2004	6,680	2,840	42.51%	\$4,260.00	\$2,130.00	\$35.50	3	5	8	3	5	24	2	48	9
D.C.		1/1/2004	8/17/2004	6,012	2,844	47.31%	\$4,266.00	\$4,266.00	\$64.64	4	7	9	6	6	32	2	64	10
West Va.	200	8/1/2003	8/2/2004	21,648	18,922	87.41%	\$35,478.75	\$11,826.25	\$499.70	7	8	7	8	8	38	2	76	11
Maryland	8,000	8/1/2003	8/2/2004															
Alabama	300	5/1/2003	8/31/2004															
Arkansas	0	5/1/2003	8/2/2004															
Iowa	0	1/1/2004	8/13/2004															
Louisiana	1,170	5/1/2003	9/7/2004															
Minnesota	0	5/31/2004	9/14/2004															
New Hamp.	0	5/31/2004	8/11/2004															
New Jersey	0	5/31/2004	7/26/2004															
New York		1/1/2004	8/17/2004															
Penn.		2/16/2004	8/2/2004															
Rhode Island		1/1/2004	9/3/2004															
Tennessee	0	5/1/2003	8/19/2004															
Virginia		1/1/2004	8/20/2004															
Alaska		anytime	8/4/2004															
Arizona			6/9/2004															
California			8/6/2004															
Colorado		1/15/2004	7/5/2004															
Delaware		7/16/2004	8/21/2004															
Florida			9/1/2004															
Georgia			7/13/2004															
Hawaii			9/3/2004															
Idaho			8/31/2004															
Indiana		3/15/2003	7/1/2004															
Kansas		anytime	8/2/2004															
Mass.		current	7/27/2004															
Michigan			7/15/2004															
Mississippi		7/4/2004	9/3/2004															
Missouri			7/26/2004															
Montana			7/28/2004															
Nebraska			8/24/2004															
Nevada			7/9/2004															
New Mexico		5/31/2004	9/7/2004															
No. Carolina		7/12/2004	6/25/2004															
Oregon		current	8/24/2004															
So. Carolina		1/1/2004	7/15/2004															
Utah		3/9/2004	9/3/2004															
Vermont			9/16/2004															
Washington		1/2/2004	8/25/2004															
Wisconsin		current	9/14/2004															
Wyoming			8/17/2004															

Group 1 - Ballot Access Assistance Eligible & Required
Group 2 - Ballot Access Assistance Eligible (hopefully not needed - stretch)
Group 3 - Ballot Access Assistance Ineligible - not yet on Ballot
Group 4 - On the Ballot

State	Priority	Start	Deadline	Raw Signatures	LNC Share Signatures	Assistance % of Total	Estimated Cost	Sep-03	Oct-03	Nov-03	Dec-03
Connecticut	1	1/1/2004	8/7/2004	12,525	765	6.11%	\$1,147.50				
Kentucky	2	1/1/2004	8/26/2004	8,350	2,062	24.69%	\$3,093.00				
Ohio	2	5/1/2003	11/1/2003	53,924	20,132	37.33%	\$30,198.00	\$15,100.00	\$15,098.00		
Texas	4	3/3/2004	5/17/2004	76,052	47,687	62.70%	\$89,413.40				
Illinois	5	3/15/2004	6/21/2004	41,750	17,576	42.10%	\$26,364.00				
South Dakota	5	8/1/2003	8/3/2004	13,968	12,336	88.32%	\$18,504.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00
North Dakota	7	9/2/2003	9/3/2004	11,690	10,394	88.91%	\$15,591.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00
Oklahoma	8	8/1/2003	5/1/2004	86,474	79,370	91.78%	\$119,055.00		\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Maine	9	5/31/2004	8/9/2004	6,680	2,840	42.51%	\$4,260.00				
D.C.	10	1/1/2004	8/17/2004	6,012	2,844	47.31%	\$4,266.00				
West Va.	11	8/1/2003	8/2/2004	21,648	18,922	87.41%	\$35,478.00	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00
							\$347,369.90	\$20,200.00	\$35,198.00	\$20,100.00	\$20,100.00

State	Jan-04	Feb-04	Mar-04	Apr-04	May-04	Jun-04	Jul-04	Aug-04	Total
Connecticut						\$600.00	\$547.50		\$1,147.50
Kentucky					\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$693.00		\$3,093.00
Ohio									\$30,198.00
Texas			\$36,000.00	\$36,000.00	\$17,413.40				\$89,413.40
Illinois			\$5,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$3,364.00			\$26,364.00
South Dakota	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,504.00		\$18,504.00
North Dakota	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,291.00	\$15,591.00
Oklahoma	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$14,055.00				\$119,055.00
Maine						\$2,260.00	\$2,000.00		\$4,260.00
D.C.						\$2,166.00	\$2,100.00		\$4,266.00
West Va.	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00	\$1,706.40		\$22,706.40
	\$20,100.00	\$20,100.00	\$61,100.00	\$65,100.00	\$46,768.40	\$14,690.00	\$9,850.90	\$1,291.00	\$334,598.30