

BALLOT ACCESS NEWS

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BAD FLORIDA BILL STOPPED

The November 27 *Ballot Access News* reported that the 1989 session of the Florida legislature had moved the deadline for independent candidates for U.S. Senate and Congress from mid-July to mid-May, and that the 1990 session of the legislature was expected to make a similar change for third party petitions. Since it is illegal to circulate ballot access petitions in Florida earlier than mid-January (except for presidential candidates), the deadline changes would have meant that the petitioning period had been reduced by 25%. For office other than president, the number of signatures in Florida is so high, no statewide independent, and only one third party, has managed to qualify in Florida during the last 62 years. The earlier deadline would have made this situation even worse.

Fortunately, on January 10, the House Elections Committee decided to retain the mid-July deadline for third parties, and to restore the mid-July deadline for independent candidates. A bill will be drafted which requires third party and independent candidates to file a certificate of candidacy in mid-May, and to pay the filing fee at that time, but petitions will not be due until mid-July. If the petition does not succeed, the filing fee would be refunded.

MASSACHUSETTS INITIATIVE

The December 24 *Ballot Access News* reported that the Massachusetts initiative to reform the ballot access laws was 557 signatures short of qualifying. Since then, the initiative's sponsors have checked their own petitions, and believe they have found another 800 signatures which were marked "invalid", but which are actually valid. The initiative sponsors are optimistic that the initiative will soon be officially certified. If this happens, under Massachusetts initiative procedures, the legislature must consider passing the measure. If the legislature refuses to enact it, then the proponents must gather additional signatures equal to one-half of 1% of the last gubernatorial vote (about 10,000 more signatures). If these are obtained, the initiative will appear on the November 1990 ballot. The initiative would lower the number of signatures needed to qualify a third party or independent candidate to one-fourth of the existing level, from 2% of the last gubernatorial vote, to one-half of 1% (from about 40,000 signatures, to about 10,000). The Committee, Box 2557, Boston Ma 02208, needs contributions and creative ideas for advertising in support of the initiative.

CONGRESS

Congress re-convened on January 23. The House will probably vote on HR 2190, the voter registration bill, before mid-February. The bill had been delayed because there had been no agreement on its details, but there is now agreement among Republican and Democratic leaders. Once the House has dealt with HR 2190, it will be easier to gain a hearing for HR 1582, the ballot access bill.

3 GOOD BILLS TO BE INTRODUCED

1. Georgia: on January 24, Senator Culver Kidd will introduce a bill to lower the number of signatures for statewide third party and independent candidates to 10,000 signatures; to lower the number of signatures needed for district office from 5% of the number of registered voters, to 1%; and to provide that petitioning shall be done with small forms which hold only one signature. The latter provision is desired by the Secretary of State.

2. Kansas: House Bill 2428, introduced in 1989 and still alive, will be amended in conference committee to lower the number of signatures needed for a new party to get on the ballot from 2%, to 1%, of the last gubernatorial vote. The bill is sponsored by the Secretary of State. The bill may or may not also raise the number of signatures needed for a statewide independent candidate from 2,500 signatures to 1% of the last gubernatorial vote. This latter change, if it is made, will be unfortunate; but third party activists in Kansas would still support the bill.

3. Missouri: On January 11, Representative Sheila Lumpe introduced HB 1417, which lowers the number of signatures for a new party from 1% of the last gubernatorial vote (about 24,000) to a flat 10,000. The bill will be amended later to make a similar reduction for statewide independent candidates. The bill has 6 co-sponsors, five Democrats and one Republican. Last year the bill had no co-sponsors at all. Senator Frank Flotron will introduce the same bill in the Senate if he can obtain at least two co-sponsors; he already has one. Ken Bush deserves the credit for obtaining the 6 co-sponsors in the House. He coordinated a campaign by which Libertarians from all parts of Missouri telephoned their own legislator and asked that the legislator become a co-sponsor.

INDIANA BILL DELAYED

Last month, Republican Senator Sue Landske, the Assistant Majority Leader, promised to introduce a bill to reduce the number of signatures needed for statewide third party and independent candidates from 2% of the last vote cast, to a flat 5,000 signatures. Senator Landske believed she could attach the proposal as an amendment to another election law bill, SB 476, at a hearing of the Senate Elections Committee on January 16, 1990. Although the author of the bill, Senator Dick Thompson, agreed, the committee refused to add the amendment. Consequently, Landske will introduce a separate bill on the subject when the legislature re-convenes in August 1990.

There is still no decision from Judge Sarah Evans Barker of the U.S. District Court in Indianapolis, over the constitutionality of Indiana's write-in ban. Judge Barker promised to release her decision by the end of 1989, but she has not done so. It is possible that she is waiting to see whether the legislature eases the ballot access law, before she rules.

OTHER STATE LEGISLATIVE NEWS

California: State Senator Quentin Kopp declared on January 9 that he would not sponsor such bill to reduce the number of signatures for an independent candidate.

The California Secretary of State is drafting a proposed bill to delete those parts of the election code which regulate the internal organization of political parties, but has not yet found a legislator to introduce the proposal. A year ago, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states have no authority to regulate the organizational structure of political parties, so the laws on the books are obsolete.

Kansas: House Bill 2608 passed the legislature on January 18, 1990. It would change the number of signatures needed for an independent candidate for district office from 5% of the last vote cast for Secretary of State, to 4% of the number of registered voters (but no more than 2,500 signatures would be required in either case). The practical effect of the bill is minimal; the purpose of the bill is to make it easier for elections officials to compute the number of signatures needed. Kansas is re-drawing its precincts, and it will no longer be possible to calculate how many votes were cast in a particular precinct in the previous election, since the precinct boundaries in the previous election don't match the new precincts.

Kentucky: SB 36, introduced on January 2, would change Kentucky gubernatorial elections from odd years, to even years. Currently, Kentucky is one of only five states which elects its governor in odd-numbered years.

Louisiana: Representative Terry Gee, a Republican from New Orleans, is helping to line up support for a proposed bill to ease the requirements for new parties to qualify for the ballot. The legislature convenes in April.

Massachusetts: On December 27, 1989, the House passed HB 1544, which conforms the Massachusetts election law to the court decision in *Serrette v Connolly*. That decision, issued in 1985, ruled the petition deadline of mid-May unconstitutional, and required that it be no earlier than the end of July. Since the Massachusetts Senate had already passed HB 1544, it went immediately to Governor Dukakis, who signed it into law on January 9, 1990. Maine, Pennsylvania and Texas are now the only states with statutory deadlines earlier than July, for an independent presidential candidate to submit petitions. The Pennsylvania statutory deadline of May was ruled unconstitutional in 1984, but the legislature has never changed the law to conform to that decision.

West Virginia: The State Election Commission is redrafting the state's election law. The Commission refuses to make public any portion of the draft, until the entire document is complete. The Commission's work is headed by Dr. Allan Hammock, a professor of political science, who can be reached at 1348 Anderson Ave., Morgantown, W.V. 26505. West Virginia has one of the worst ballot access laws in the nation. It was one of only three states in which the Libertarian Party didn't even try to get Ron Paul on the ballot for president in 1988. Readers from any state should write to Dr. Hammock and ask him to work for better ballot access procedures.

Wyoming: Even though the Secretary of State of Wyoming has presented the 1990 session of the legislature with a revision of the election code, legislative leaders are threatening to ignore it. This is unfortunate, since the revision substantially eases ballot access for new parties and independent candidates. Wyoming Libertarians are planning to publicize the legislature's inaction, and hope that a publicity campaign will stimulate some action.

NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina Attorney General and the State Board of Elections now orally acknowledge that there is no legal bar to any PAC contributing as much money as it wishes, toward a petition drive to qualify a new party. Project 51-'92, which sued the State Board of Elections to reverse its earlier ruling, is now pressing the Board to extend the petition deadline from May 17 to approximately August 1, and to pay the legal costs of its lawsuit. There is still no agreement on these points. Project 51-'92 is a Libertarian PAC which hopes to pay for the petition drive to get the Libertarian Party on the 1990 ballot. The State Board had originally ruled that no PAC can contribute more than \$5,000 toward such a project.

VOTING INTIMIDATION SUIT SETTLED

On December 26, 1989, a settlement was announced in *Hispanic Political Council v Pringle*, U.S. District Court, California Central Dist., Orange County Branch, no. SA-CV-88-678-JSL. The Republican Party of California agreed to pay \$400,000 to plaintiffs in order to have the case dropped. The case was brought by five Hispanic voters and the Orange County, California Democratic Party, because at the November 1988 election, the Republican Party had hired private security guards to stand at twenty polling places, carrying signs in Spanish and in English, warning that it is a felony for non-citizens to register and/or to vote. The Republican Party did not admit any wrong-doing. Since the case has been settled out of court, no precedent is established. Most of the settlement money will go toward registering voters.

NAP SUSPENDS PETITIONING

The New Alliance Party has suspended petitioning for ballot status in Georgia and North Carolina, and does not expect to resume until 1991. Petitions gathered in North Carolina can be used for 1992, but petitions in Georgia cannot, and the signatures gathered so far will be wasted. The party felt its energy could be used more profitably in building up local chapters than in petitioning.

MICHIGAN ELECTION

On January 16, 1990, there was a special election in Michigan's 25th state representative district. Libertarian Party candidate Ron Burcham polled 396 votes, or 2.4% of the vote, in a 3-way race. In November 1988 Burcham also ran as a Libertarian in a 3-way race, but at that time he only polled 180 votes, or .5%.

NEWS ELECTION SERVICE

Attorneys for Pedro Espada, the New Alliance Party candidate who plans to sue the News Election Service for refusing to report his vote (even though he polled 42%) have obtained documents showing that the News Election Service received its exemption from anti-trust statutes, back in 1964, by promising to tabulate election returns, but not to analyze them. NES needed an exemption from the anti-trust laws because it is owned by all the national, for-profit television networks. Espada's attorneys plan to argue that NES's claim that it only collects election returns for "newsworthy" candidates shows that NES is violating its own promise, since a decision as to which parties or candidates are "newsworthy" is an analytical decision.

The proposed lawsuit will attempt to expose the New York city police department's policy of obtaining the election results on election night, and then refusing to release the data to anyone except NES. Furthermore, for about a month after the election, no one but the police department has the data, unless another group has the manpower to visit each polling place on election night.

The Rainbow Lobby has met with congressional staffers who are attached to the committees which deal with anti-trust matters. The Rainbow Lobby hopes to arrange for a congressional hearing on NES practices. It also hopes to meet with a U.S. Assistant Attorney General. Congressmen Pete Stark and Jim Bates, Democrats of California, have written letters to NES, asking that NES revise its policy of excluding third party votes in its data.

OVERSEAS PARTY NEWS

1. Yugoslavia will hold its first multi-party national election in over forty years in April, 1990.
2. On January 14, 1990, in Jurmala, Latvia, a convention of two hundred people established a Green Party for Latvia. Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania, are the only republics within the Soviet Union in which the Communist Party no longer enjoys supremacy under the republic's constitution.

VILLAGE VOICE HITS HUMANIST PARTY

The longest, most prominent article in the December 26, 1989 issue of *The Village Voice*, a prominent weekly newspaper in New York city, is titled, "The Fake Greens", with a subtitle, "A 'Cult' Invades the Environmental Movement". The article is seven pages long, and describes how a tightly-organized political party, the Humanist Party, has been operating under the name, "Green Party", and confounding attempts in the much larger environmental movement to form a more broadly-based Green Party. The Humanist Party has never appeared on the ballot of any state as a political party, under its own name or under any other name either. However, it has run candidates for non-partisan office in San Francisco, and is also well-organized in New York city and in many foreign countries.

TEXAS LIBERTARIAN PARTY

In Texas, the only third party which is qualified is the Libertarian Party. In order to keep that status, the party must poll 5% in any statewide race in 1990, or 2% for Governor. This year, for the first time, there is tentatively a Republican candidate for every statewide race, so it will be harder for the Libertarian Party to retain status. No Libertarian has ever polled more than 2.3% in a statewide race in Texas, when there was both a Republican and a Democrat in the race also. The best Libertarian showing for Texas Governor has been 1.23%.

REGISTRATION LAWSUIT

The Iowa Socialist Party's lawsuit over the right of voters to register as members of parties other than Democratic or Republican was scheduled for a hearing in the 8th circuit on February 15 before Judges Frank Magill, Roger Wollman, and Franklin Waters. However, the party's attorney has requested a continuance since she will be out of the country then. All three judges are Reagan appointees. In 1988, Judges Magill and Wollman voted to uphold the Missouri Secretary of State after the Secretary of State removed Libertarian Party presidential candidate Ron Paul from the ballot. Judge Waters has never had a case involving ballot access or political party rights.

HAWAII

Ted Erum, who lost in the 9th circuit last year over the constitutionality of Hawaii's ballot access law for independent candidates, has decided not to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. Instead, he plans to lobby for a better ballot access law. Hawaii requires an independent candidate (other than one running for president) to poll 10% of the vote in the primary, or to poll at least as many votes as the political party nominee who received the fewest primary votes (whichever is less), to get on the general election ballot. No independent candidate in Hawaii has ever polled as much as 10% of the primary vote. Erum plans to ask the 1991 session of the legislature to either reduce the 10% figure, or to provide for a petition procedure for independents.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

About 1,000 petitioners are circulating the California initiative for proportional representation, but most of them are volunteers, only circulating the petition part-time. C. T. Weber, 9616 Caminto Tizona, San Diego Ca 92126, is looking for more circulators.

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FREE TV FOR PARTIES PROPOSED

The December 20, 1989 *New York Times* carried an op-ed piece by Max M. Kampelman which advocates that candidates for Congress should be given free time on television. In support of the idea, Kampelman pointed to a United Nations study which shows that virtually every other democracy in the world grants free television time to candidates for the national legislative body.

The piece advocated that parties other than the Democratic and Republican Parties should get substantially less television time, but advocated that they get some, in proportion to the number of votes they had received in previous elections. New parties would be denied any free time.

The United Nations study cited by Kampelman was presented in the UNESCO *Statistical Yearbook 1977*. According to the study, detailed information on the subject was only available for 21 countries. The study shows that these countries give equal amounts of free television time to all political parties: Australia, Denmark, Finland, France, Japan, Netherlands, and Turkey. These countries give free time in proportion to a party's strength: Austria, Belgium, Canada, West Germany, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. The law was unclear in India, Norway and Sri Lanka.

Kampelman is described in the *New York Times* as formerly chief negotiator for the U.S. in arms talks, and chairman of Freedom House, a human rights organization. Kampelman advocated that the networks not be compensated for the free time; he stated that the networks should consider it a cost of doing business. He made no mention of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which forbids government taking of property without just compensation.

FIRST FAX DECISION

On May 3, 1989, the New Jersey Superior Court ruled that a faxed signature on a nomination paper is valid, as long as the original reaches the filing office soon afterwards. Michael Madden, a candidate for Ridgefield municipal council, was out of the state on the deadline for filing a nomination document which required his signature, so he faxed it to the town clerk. A few days later, the town clerk received the original, signed form, via the mails. The court ruled that the faxed signature was valid for the purpose of meeting the filing deadline. *Madden v Hegadorn*, 565 A 2d 725. This case appears to be the first election law decision on the sufficiency of a faxed document as a substitute for the original.

COMMUNIST PARTY

1. The Communist Party has announced its first candidate for 1990, Frank Lumpkin for State Representative in Illinois, under the Independent Progressive label.
2. The Communist Party has decided to sue to overturn the California ballot access requirements for new parties, and has asked the ACLU to handle the proposed case. However, the suit won't be filed until 1991.

OHIO

On December 19, 1988, the ACLU of Ohio filed its main brief in *Rosen v Brown*, the case over whether Ohio can refuse to print any partisan designation on the ballot for independent candidates or not. Ohio is the only state which provides that party nominees may have a party label on the general election ballot, and yet independent candidates cannot have any ballot label whatsoever, not even the word "independent" (except that Louisiana also refuses to print any designation for non-presidential independent candidates). The state has asked for an extension of time in which to respond.

The December 18, 1989 *Plain Dealer* carried an op-ed piece by Milt Norris called "In Ohio Some Candidates are Second Class", attacking Ohio election laws which discriminate against third party and independent candidates.

WEST VIRGINIA

On December 28, the 4th circuit denied a rehearing in *Socialist Workers Party v Hechler*, the lawsuit over West Virginia ballot access procedures. The SWP has not yet decided whether to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to hear its appeal. The portion of the case which was won by the Socialist Workers Party is not being appealed by the state.

ILLINOIS LAROCHE CANDIDATES

Illinois requires 5,000 signatures for any candidate to appear on the primary ballot for statewide office. This year, supporters of Lyndon LaRouche filed to run in the Illinois Democratic Party primary for all statewide offices. The Democratic Party of Illinois challenged the petitions, but could find nothing wrong with the petitions on their face, so instead charged that signers had been tricked into signing. Although the challenge was filed on December 26, 1989, the State Board of Elections still hasn't ruled, but will do so January 24. Since the primary will be on March 20 and ballots must be printed in time for absentee voting, there will be virtually no time for the LaRouche candidates to go to court, if the Board removes them.

SWP MAY LOSE DISCLOSURE EXEMPTION

In 1982, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Socialist Workers Party need not disclose the names of its campaign contributors, since the record showed that persons publicly identified with that party were likely to suffer harassment, both from government agencies and from private individuals and organizations. Then, in 1986, the SWP won another case, forcing the federal government to stop infiltrating the party, to stop spying on it, and to stop playing dirty tricks on it. Partly as a consequence of the SWP victory in the 1986 lawsuit, the Federal Election Commission is no longer willing to continue giving the SWP an exemption from disclosing its campaign contributors. The SWP will probably need to sue the FEC in order to retain its exemption.

1990 PETITIONING

STATE	REQUIRED	SIGNATURES COLLECTED					DEADLINE
		LIBT	NAP	POP	WWP	OTHER	
Alabama	12,345	300	0	0	0	—	Apr 6
Alaska	2,032	0	0	0	0	AK IN	Jun 1
Arizona	23,438	2,000	0	0	0	—	May 19
Arkansas	24,833	0	0	0	0	—	May 1
California	(reg) 76,172	already on	too late	too late	too late	PFP,AIP	Jan 2
Colorado	1,000	can't start	can't start	can't start	can't start	—	Aug 7
Connecticut	9,937	0	0	0	0	—	Aug 10
Delaware	(reg.) 140	already on	already on	0	0	—	Aug 18
Dist of Col.	(est.) 3,000	can't start	can't start	can't start	can't start	STATEH	Aug 29
Florida	181,421	0	0	0	0	—	Jul 17
Georgia	29,414	already on	3,800	2,639	0	—	Aug 7
Hawaii	4,438	already on	0	0	0	—	Apr 25
Idaho	8,180	already on	0	0	0	—	Aug 30
Illinois	25,000	can't start	already on	can't start	can't start	—	Aug 6
Indiana	30,950	1,408	0	0	0	—	Jul 15
Iowa	1,000	0	0	0	0	—	Aug 17
Kansas	16,813	0	0	0	0	—	Apr 12
Kentucky	5,000	0	0	0	0	—	Jan 29
Louisiana	(reg) 108,000	200	0	50	0	—	Jun 30
Maine	4,000	0	0	0	0	—	Jun 5
Maryland	(est) 69,500	0	0	0	0	—	Aug 6
Massachusetts	33,682	can't start	can't start	can't start	can't start	—	Jul 31
Michigan	23,953	already on	0	0	21,000	TISCH	Jul 19
Minnesota	2,000	can't start	can't start	can't start	can't start	—	Jul 17
Mississippi	just be org.	already on	organizing	0	0	—	Apr 1
Missouri	20,860	0	0	0	0	—	Aug 6
Montana	9,531	already on	0	0	0	—	Apr 16
Nebraska	5,635	0	0	0	0	—	Aug 1
Nevada	10,326	7,000	0	0	0	—	Aug 14
New Hampshire	3,000	0	0	0	0	—	Aug 22
New Jersey	800	0	0	0	0	—	Apr 12
New Mexico	2,475	already on	already on	0	already on	SW,PRH	Jul 10
New York	20,000	can't start	can't start	can't start	can't start	C,L,RTL	Aug 21
North Carolina	43,601	0	4,800	0	0	—	May 17
North Dakota	7,000	0	0	0	0	—	Apr 13
Ohio	43,934	too late	too late	too late	too late	—	Jan 8
Oklahoma	58,552	0	0	0	0	—	May 31
Oregon	35,000	already on	0	0	0	—	Aug 28
Pennsylvania	24,858	can't start	can't start	can't start	can't start	—	Aug 1
Rhode Island	1,000	can't start	can't start	can't start	can't start	—	Jul 19
South Carolina	10,000	already on	already on	0	0	AMER	May 6
South Dakota	2,945	0	0	0	0	—	Aug 7
Tennessee	30,259	0	0	1,600	0	—	May 1
Texas	34,424	already on	can't start	can't start	can't start	—	May 27
Utah	500	already on	0	0	0	INDP	Mar 15
Vermont	1,000	already on	already on	0	0	LUP	Sep 20
Virginia	13,687	0	0	0	0	—	Jun 12
Washington	200	can't start	can't start	can't start	can't start	—	Jul 28
West Virginia	6,346	0	0	0	0	—	May 7
Wisconsin	2,000	can't start	can't start	can't start	can't start	LFP	Jul 10
Wyoming	8,000	0	0	0	0	—	May 1

This chart shows petitioning progress of various third parties for 1990 ballots. LIBT is Libertarian; NAP is New Alliance; POP is Populist; WWP is Workers World. The "Other" column lists other third parties which are already qualified statewide. The Maryland Libertarian Party has completed a petition drive, but it will be used for 1992, not 1990. "Deadline" is the deadline for submitting petitions to qualify new parties. In a few states, third party candidates must file declarations of candidacy before the petition deadline. In some states, the independent candidate deadline is later than the party deadline.

CALIFORNIA

California has three ballot-qualified third parties, American Independent, Libertarian, and Peace & Freedom. During 1990, the Libertarian and Peace & Freedom Parties must poll 2% for at least one statewide candidate. There are 7 statewide races. The campaigns for the lesser statewide offices frequently receive little publicity, and third party candidates poll larger or smaller votes on the basis of variables such as sex, ethnicity (if it is apparent from the candidate's name) and occupation (occupation is printed on the ballot), rather than on the basis of the campaign.

The American Independent Party need not worry about polling any particular vote, since it will qualify automatically for 1992 because of its large number of registrants. Nevertheless, it is running a candidate for all seven statewide races. There may be a primary contest for Governor and for Lieutenant Governor. All of the party's statewide candidates so far are men.

The Libertarian Party is also running a statewide candidate for every race. One has a Spanish surname and one is female. The party's candidate for Controller is a county supervisor from Calaveras County.

The Peace & Freedom Party has a primary contest for every statewide race, which is unprecedented for a third party in California. At least one of the candidates for each position is female, and there are two candidates with Spanish surnames, and three with a Chinese or Japanese surname. One candidate is a member of a county Board of Education in Yolo County. The primary contests are caused by the on-going battle between the Internationalist Workers Party faction and the "traditional" faction, for control of the party. Party nominees are automatically members of the State Central Committee.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

1. The hearing in *U.S. v Kokinda*, no. 88-2031, will be on February 26 at 11 a.m. At stake is the constitutionality of a post office regulation banning all First Amendment activity on post office sidewalks.

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NONPARTISAN BALLOT ACCESS GROUPS

1. COFOE, the Coalition for Free and Open Elections. Dues of \$10 entitles one to membership with no expiration date; this also includes a one-year subscription to *Ballot Access News* (or a one-year renewal). Address: Box 355, Old Chelsea Sta., New York NY 10011. Membership applications can also be sent to 3201 Baker St., San Francisco Ca 94123.

2. RAINBOW LOBBY, organized in 1985, initiated the Conyers ballot access bill in Congress and maintains a lobbying office at 1660 L St., N.W., Suite 204, Washington, D.C. 20036, tel. (202) 457-0700. The Lobby also lobbies in certain state capitols.

3. FOUNDATION FOR FREE CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS, has non-profit status from the IRS. Consequently, it cannot lobby, but deductions to it are tax-deductible. The Foundation was organized to fund lawsuits which attack restrictive ballot access laws. 7404 Estaban Dr., Springfield VA 22151, tel. (703) 569-6782.

4. ACLU, American Civil Liberties Union, has been fighting for fairer ballot access ever since 1940, when it published recommendations for a model ballot access law, including petition requirements of one-tenth of 1%. 132 W. 43rd St., New York NY 10036, tel. (212) 944-9800.

DAVID DUKE

On January 13, the Louisiana Republican Party endorsed Ben Bagert for U.S. Senate. Three other Republicans sought the endorsement, including David Duke. Duke received only 52 votes out of 785 cast. However, the endorsement process has no effect on ballot status, and Duke still plans to run for the Senate as a Republican. Louisiana election law eliminates the right of political parties to nominate their own candidates. Under the state's system, all candidates run in a single election, regardless of party. If anyone receives over 50%, that person is elected. Otherwise, the two top vote-getters compete in a run-off, even if both of them are in the same party.

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