



Caryn Ann Harlos &lt;carynannharlos@gmail.com&gt;

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**Ballot Access Update - We can do this!**

1 message

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**Daniel Fishman - Executive Director** <info3@lp.org>

Thu, Jan 23, 2020 at 7:28 AM

Reply-To: info3@lp.org

To: Caryn Ann Harlos &lt;carynannharlos@gmail.com&gt;



**As of today, only 35 states within the United States have secured ballot access for the Libertarian Party in the 2020 presidential election year. Our battle is making progress as we fight towards reaching number 36 this month.**

If you have been in the Libertarian Party for any amount of time, you know that ballot access is one of the most persistent and punishing obstacles we face. The old parties continue to find new ways every year to limit ballot options for voters, [despite polls continuing to show a strong desire for a third prominent party in the US](#). In 2016, the Libertarian Party had full ballot access in all 50 states thanks to the tireless efforts of staff and volunteers, and generous donors. This year we seek the same goal, which will also make the Libertarian Party the **first alternative party in US history to secure 50-state ballot access in two consecutive Presidential elections**.

Right now, our focus and efforts are on Maryland. A petition drive will begin in February to earn the LP a spot on the ballot. Accomplishing this goal will guarantee the Libertarian Party ballot access in Maryland through the 2022 election cycle. As is the case in all states, Maryland has strict (and sometimes bizarre) requirements for parties seeking ballot access through petitions. Canvassers need to acquire 10,000 valid petition signatures, and in reality they will have to collect many more as signers are required to include their middle initial. Any signatures lacking a middle initial will be thrown out and not counted. The high cost of living in Maryland is an added challenge for canvassers, some of whom will be relocating specifically for this effort.

The Libertarian Party of Maryland has stepped up to the plate and already put forward \$15,000 of their funds toward the ballot access drive. In total, we expect this effort to cost at least \$30,000. Whether or not Maryland is your home, nationwide ballot access affects every voter in America, so we ask you to make the most generous contribution you can to help secure ballot access for Maryland.



Along with our 2020 Presidential candidate, this drive will give ballot access to the eight US House candidates who are also seeking election in Maryland on the Libertarian ticket. As there are eight US House seats in Maryland, this would give every voter in Maryland a third choice on their ballot.

George Orwell wrote, "***The real division is not between conservatives and revolutionaries but between authoritarians and libertarians.***" A red or blue candidate, when elected, betrays their true common goal -- exercising power over you and me."

No matter how one votes, if a power-hungry authoritarian wins, everyone is hurt as they continue to tax us, continue to wage wars, continue to create criminals where there is no injustice, and continue to convince the public that we would be lost without them. We cannot let up in our fight for liberty. Everyone in this country deserves a choice on their ballot that will not threaten their freedom -- please help us ensure that Maryland has that choice.

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