

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

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Is Presidential Debates Commission deliberately lying for Clinton & Dole? Libertarians wonder: Or is Janet Brown just ignorant about politics?

WASHINGTON, DC -- The head of the Commission on Presidential Debates is either oddly ignorant of politics — or has started telling lies to protect her Republican and Democratic bosses, the Libertarian Party charged today.

"Commission Executive Director Janet Brown seems determined to prove that she is a groveling lapdog for Bob Dole's and Bill Clinton's campaigns," said Libertarian Party National Director Perry Willis today. "She's spreading deliberate falsehoods to try to guarantee that only her bipartisan masters will be allowed into the presidential debates."

Willis said that Brown is inflating the number of independent and third party presidential contenders in an attempt to trivialize the handful of serious challengers to the Republicans and Democrats — and to create a rationale for excluding everyone but Clinton and Dole.

Brown was quoted in the *Washington Post* on August 28 saying that the Commission would decide whether "any of the 150 third-party or independent candidates" who are running for the presidency on one or more state ballots will be invited into the debates.

"The 150 number she cites is a total fabrication," said Willis. "In fact, there are only 14 third-party or independent presidential candidates who are on the ballot in at least one state this November — not 150. And there are only four or five third-party presidential candidates on enough states' ballots to win a mathematical majority of the Electoral College."

Why the inflated and false number from Janet Brown? "She's clearly suggesting that a huge number of third-party presidential candidates threaten to make the debates unwieldy — thus trying to justify the Commission's upcoming decision to exclude even credible third-party challengers to Clinton and Dole," theorized Willis.

"No one with any knowledge of American politics would claim that 150 presidential candidates are on the general election ballot," scoffed Willis. "Especially someone whose job involves monitoring presidential politics. Can Janet Brown really be so ignorant that she doesn't know this — or is she deliberately lying?"

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