

# LNC EC

**July 5, 1998**

Present: David Bergland, Chair  
Hugh Butler, Vice-Chair  
Mark Tuniewicz, Treasurer  
Steve Givot, Secretary  
Joe Dehn

Staff: Ron Crickenberger, National Director  
Steve Dasbach, Chief Operating Officer  
Nick Dunbar  
Kris Williams

Also present: Bob Franke (FL), Region 7 Representative  
Mike Ginsberg, Chair, LPIL

The meeting was called to order by Bergland at 5:35 PM EDT.

Item: Assistance for Illinois Ballot Access Drive

Bergland called on Givot to report regarding the status of the 1998 Illinois ballot drive.

Givot reported that Illinois is a "challenge state;" that the 1998 petition being circulated included a full slate of 7 candidates for statewide offices, including governor; that the gubernatorial campaign had up to \$250,000 in available matching funds to match outside contributions; that 5% for any of the seven candidates would achieve ballot status for the party's 2000 presidential slate; that 5% for governor would achieve ballot access for all partisan races at all levels of office in Illinois; that 25,000 valid signatures are required to achieve ballot access; that the goal of the drive was 50,000 gross signatures; as of Monday, June 29, the drive had approximately 13,500 signatures in hand; that the last date for submission of the petition is August 3, 1998; and that a challenge initiated by Republicans or their allies was expected regardless of the number of signatures submitted.

Responding to questions from Dehn, Ginsberg said that in 1994 the party's candidates for statewide office received between approximately 2% and 4% of the vote. Ginsberg also said that the last date to submit a challenge to the petition was August 10, 1998. He also said that there were three major parties on the ballot (Democratic, Republican, and Reform) and that he had heard that the Taxpayers Party was petitioning to be on the ballot.

Butler moved that Executive Committee authorize the expenditure of the next \$22,000 of unencumbered funds to assist the Libertarian Party of Illinois in its 1998 ballot drive on the condition that this funding in addition to funding from the Libertarian Party of Illinois is adequate to succeed in getting LPI's candidates on the 1998 ballot.

Givot seconded the motion.

Williams said that with adequate funding, he believed the ballot drive would be successful.

Dunbar said that the success of the drive and the likely cost of the drive would be dependent on getting adequate management on site for the duration of the drive.

Tuniewicz said that although Tobin is a quality candidate, he was concerned that the possibility of a successful challenge was high, that he felt the costs might exceed the estimate, and that other states were funding their own petition drives. He expressed concern that the proposed expenditure would represent over 1/3 of the anticipated convention profits. He expressed concern about the rushed pace of the approval process and whether adequate information was available to make an informed decision. He suggested that, as an alternative, the funds could be lent to the affiliate to be repaid after the ballot drive was done.

Dehn expressed concern that this would take away funds from other important uses, including the Archimedes project.

Butler said that spending \$22,000 on this effort would mean that \$22,000 less would be spent on other efforts. He also said that he understood that funds would not be released for this purpose unless they met the terms of the pre-funding discipline that had been used for project funding during the past year.

Dasbach said that if the motion were approved, funds would not be released unless there was sufficient funding to complete the project and it seemed likely that the project could be completed with available funds. He said that Jim Tobin, the Libertarian gubernatorial candidate, was getting significant coverage from wire services.

Dasbach said that since 1989, in every case where the Libertarian Party funded and managed a statewide ballot drive, the drive was successfully completed. He also said that, in 1994, the LP attempted to earn permanent ballot status in several states and succeeded in doing so in all but one -- Arizona, where the LP got 4% of the vote with 5% required for permanent ballot status.

There was a discussion of who would decide whether or not LPI had raised sufficient funds, whether or not LP had sufficient funds to meet the pre-funding discipline, and whether it seemed likely that the ballot drive would succeed. There was agreement that these matters would be Dasbach's responsibility if the motion were approved.

After considerable discussion the motion passed by a vote of 3 to 2.

Yes: Bergland, Butler, Givot.

No: Dehn, Tuniewicz.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 PM EDT.