



LNC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

JUNE 16, 2010

To: Libertarian National Committee
From: Alicia Mattson
CC: Robert Kraus, Wes Benedict
Date: June 20, 2010

CURRENT STATUS: [Auto-Approved, 07/04/10](#)

VERSION LAST UPDATED

JUNE 21, 2010

BARRING OBJECTION FROM ANY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING,
MINUTES OFFICIAL 14 DAYS FROM DISTRIBUTION:

JULY 4, 2010

ATTENDANCE

All Executive Committee members were present: Mark Hinkle (Chair), Mark Rutherford (Vice-Chair), Alicia Mattson (Secretary), James Oaksun (Treasurer), Jim Lark, Bill Redpath, and Mary Ruwart.

Additional LNC members and alternates present were: Randy Eshelman, Stewart Flood, Vicki Kirkland, Kevin Knedler, Norm Olsen, Rebecca Sink-Burris, Dan Wiener

Representing the LP of PA was: Mik Robertson
Representing the LP of NE was: Gene Siadek

LP Executive Director Wes Benedict was present.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order shortly after 9:00pm Eastern.

AGENDA

The purpose of the meeting was to consider ballot access encumbrances for Pennsylvania, New York, and Nebraska.

PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. Redpath moved that the LNC encumber \$6K for the LP of PA petition drive for 2010.

This 2010 LP of Pennsylvania drive concerns getting party ballot access for their candidates for Governor, Lt. Governor, and US Senate.

Success in this effort would give them ballot access for 2 years, allow them to participate in any potential special elections without any petitioning at all, and give them minor party status (which can only be gained in even-year elections) including a checkbox line on voter registration forms.

The only way for the LP of PA to retain ballot access is to run state-wide candidates and get 2% of the vote. The previous state-wide election will determine the signature requirement for 2012. This threshold has typically been 25,000 – 30,000 signatures, though it has at times been over 50,000, and this year was only 19,000.

PA Chair Robertson reported that the LP of PA has a good volunteer effort for this drive. They expect volunteers to collect 10,000 signatures. They need to turn in over 30,000 raw signatures. The LP of PA is contributing \$10,000 for the effort, and candidates are contributing additional funds.

Voting on the main motion:

**Aye – Hinkle, Lark, Mattson, Oaksun, Redpath, Ruwart
Nay – Rutherford**

The main motion passed 6-1.

NEW YORK

Mr. Redpath moved to encumber \$25,000 for the LP of NY petition drive.

The LP of NY needs 15,000 valid signatures in a petition drive starting July 6 and ending Aug 17 (6 weeks). It is expected that 25,000 raw signatures would be needed. The effort would give ballot access to their Governor, Lt. Governor, and 2 US Senate candidates.

The LP gubernatorial candidate is Warren Redlich. To retain ballot access for the next 4 years Redlich would need to receive 50,000 votes. They've never done that before, but Mr. Axinn thinks Mr. Redlich is a good candidate who could capitalize on Republican disenchantment. The LP of NY makes no assurances that he'll receive 50,000 votes. If he does not, the LP of NY would need another 15,000 valid signatures for 2012 ballot access.

The LP of NY expects to collect 5,000 volunteer signatures, which leaves a need for 20,000 paid signatures. The LP of NY and its candidates can put in \$10,000 and are asking for \$25,000 from the LNC. The going rate for paid signatures is \$1.50 per signature.

Mr. Redpath emphasized the \$25,000 encumbrance wasn't a guaranteed expenditure, but was an upper limit. He wants the LNC to spend as little as possible and encourage the LP of NY to do more on their own since they are one of our 5 largest state affiliates.

Dr. Lark asked by what date this decision must be made, as he would like to know more about the nature of campaigns the LP of NY candidates are running before deciding how much the LNC should contribute. Mr. Redpath indicated the decision could wait until next week, but not much later.

Without objection, Mr. Redpath withdrew the motion until after consideration of the Nebraska request.

NEBRASKA

Mr. Redpath moved to encumber \$21,000 for a petition drive for the Libertarian Party of Nebraska for 2010. (NOTE: The LNC Executive Committee had previously encumbered \$15,000, and this is effectively a request for an additional \$6,000.)

Mr. Redpath noted that none of the previously encumbered \$15,000 has yet been spent.

The LP of Nebraska needs over 5,900 valid signatures (with certain quantities from certain regions). 9,000 – 10,000 raw signatures are probably needed. If the LP of NE candidate for state auditor (Michele Sallach-Grace) gets over 5% of the vote, the LP of NE would retain their ballot status in 2012 without additional petitioning.

The LP of NE has a pending lawsuit over petition issues (petition circulators must be NE residents, they are forbidden to pay per signature). These legal complications are the reason the cost estimate has increased since the original \$15K was encumbered.

Randy Eshelman is talking to a contractor quoting \$25,000 to complete the petition drive. The contractor has signature validation software to compare with voter registration data so they know

before submission if they've got enough signatures. The LP of NE can come up with \$4,000 and is requesting that the LNC provide \$21,000.

LP of NE Chairman Siadek estimates a 5-10% chance of a Democrat joining the race, making it 3-way rather than 2-way. The Democrats have until early September to join the race. LP of NE signatures would be due in early August.

Secretary Mattson inquired about the history of ballot access retention in NE. Mr. Siadek was uncertain of the last time it was retained by vote totals of an LP of NE candidate, but believes the chance of getting 5% this time is good, since it's a 2-way male/female race. Mr. Redpath feels very optimistic that the candidate can get 5% in 2-way race, but sees it as being less likely if a Democrat joins the race.

Dr. Lark asked about the nature of the campaign, whether it would be a party-building event. Mr. Eshelman indicated the primary objective is to gain 2012 ballot access. Nebraska can split their Electoral College votes, and in theory it's possible to get an electoral vote in Nebraska for the LP Presidential candidate if we have ballot access.

Dr. Lark asked if we could first determine whether the contractor would give us a money-back-guarantee before we make this decision. Mr. Eshelman expressed a willingness to approach them and ask, but our decision time is short. We are seven weeks out from the due date and the price may go up the longer we wait.

Voting on the main motion:

Aye – Hinkle, Lark, Oaksun, Redpath, Ruwart

Nay – Rutherford

Abstain - Mattson

The main motion passed 5-1.

NEW YORK

Mr. Redpath suggested that we (and there was general consensus to) get more information and arrange for LP of NY Chairman Axinn to be on the line some time next week before we vote on the New York request. There are still 20 days before start of petition drive in NY.

The Executive Committee adjourned without objection at 10:30pm Eastern.