



LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF ILLINOIS

2014 BALLOT-ACCESS, AN ADVENTURE

To gain ballot access in Illinois' 2014 General Election, the Libertarian Party of Illinois filed 42,986 petition signatures for a slate of statewide candidates on June 23, 2014.¹ Days later, on June 30, Lake Forest resident Lou Atsaves and Highland Park resident Gary Gale filed an objection to 23,667 of those signatures.²

The initial hearing regarding the objection was held July 7. Neither Atsaves or Gale were present, but were represented by John Fogarty, General Counsel to the Illinois Republican Party. After 7 days of line-by-line review of over 2,000 petition pages and subsequent weeks spent arguing over them in court, the State Board of Elections ruled on August 22, upholding 12,789 of the signatures in question, putting the total at 30,197, and confirming ballot-access for the Libertarian candidates.³

By this time, numerous stories had surfaced about the extent of the Republican initiative to strike the Libertarians from the ballot. Two of these included confirmed events widely referred to as armed intimidation, which is a class 4 felony under Illinois law.⁴

In the first, a man who signed the Libertarians' petition in May, Julieus Hooks, was approached by an armed private investigator who told him that the woman who circulated the petition was in violation of the law. Hooks said that he was given a piece of paper and told to sign. He did so without even reading.⁵ Later, an affidavit with Hook's signature did show up in court. It said that the petitioner recorded as having gained his signature was not actually present at the signing, as is required by law. It is unknown how many others, confronted by armed and intimidating strangers, may have signed similar documents that would later be presented to the Board of Elections as 'evidence' of fraud.

The second story tells of Sarah Dart, the petitioner mentioned above. She met with a private investigator who arranged to speak with her about an alleged missing girl that was said know Dart. Instead, she was confronted with a stack of petitions and asked to admit that they were fraudulent. He, too, was visibly armed.⁵ The investigators were both from Morrison Security, a firm confirmed to have been hired by John Fogarty for the legal effort. The firm's owner is the Palos Township Republican leader and is connected to Bruce Rauner's campaign.⁶

In response to the reported intimidation, Libertarian candidate for Illinois' Attorney General, Ben Koyl, filed formal complaints on behalf of the Libertarian Party of Illinois with the offices of both Lisa Madigan (current Illinois Attorney General), and Anita Alvarez (Cook County State's Attorney). Days later, Koyl went on to file similar complaints with the US Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division.⁷

Another attorney representing Lou Atsaves and Gary Gale filed a petition for judicial review of the State Board of Elections' decision on August 26th, forcing candidates to divert further resources for more legalities. After preliminary hearings however, a judge denied, on September 18th, to even hear the case, stating that there was no evidence of fraud.⁸ Now, with the elections just over a month away, the Libertarians secured their place on the ballot. It is yet to be seen what will become of current investigations regarding the alleged armed intimidation.⁹

*Paid for by the Libertarian Party of Illinois (www.LPillinois.org)
and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee*

¹ <http://washingtonexaminer.com/libertarian-candidates-announced-in-illinois-statewide-races-42k-signatures-needed/article/feed/2125505#>

² http://ipillinois.com/media/press_releases/LP_Illinois_PR_Ballot_Access_Challenge_2014_07_14.pdf

³ http://illinoisreview.typepad.com/illinoisreview/2014/08/breaking-illinois-libertarians-win-november-ballot-access.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+typepad%2Fdlacomb%2Fillinoisreview+%28illinoisreview%29

⁴ <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs4.asp?DocName=001000050HArt+29&ActID=170&ChapterID=3&SeqStart=91000000&SeqEnd=93100000>

⁵ <http://politics.suntimes.com/article/springfield/under-gun-petition-challenges/wed-08202014-801pm>

⁶ <http://politics.suntimes.com/article/springfield/rauner-firing-blanks-flap-over-hired-gun-ballot-challenge/tue-08262014-837pm>

⁷ <http://illinoisreview.typepad.com/illinoisreview/2014/09/illinois-libertarians-file-federal-ballot-access-complaint.html>

⁸ <http://wuis.org/post/governors-race-has-third-contender-judge-keeps-libertarians-ballot>

⁹ <http://www.examiner.com/article/republicans-are-at-it-again-trying-to-eliminate-libertarians-from-the-ballot>