NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina State Board of Elections will consider waiving the May 17 deadline for new parties to submit their petitions at its March 30 meeting. If the Board refuses, the New Alliance Party will bring a lawsuit. North Carolina requires the third highest number of signatures of any state, for third party or independent presidential candidate ballot access, and also has the earliest deadline of any state (if the easier of the two methods, independent or third party, for each state is compared. In North Carolina, the third party method requires fewer signatures than the independent method). The North Carolina ACLU will sponsor the lawsuit, which will probably also challenge North Carolina law requiring petitioners to pay approximately $3500 in fees to have the petitions checked. North Carolina and Florida are the only states which require petitioners to pay for having their signatures checked.

CONGRESS

The House Subcommittee on Elections, chaired by Al Swift, will hold hearings on the Conyers voter registration bill on April 19 or 20. The Senate Committee on Rules & Administration, chaired by Wendell Ford, will hold hearings on the identical Cranston voter registration bill on March 30. There are no hearings planned in the Senate on the poll-closing bill until late April at the earliest.

DEMOCRATS

In New York, the only Democratic presidential candidates who were able to get 10,000 valid signatures to be on that state's presidential primary were Dukakis, Gephart, Gore, Jackson, LaRouche and Simon. Gary Hart tried and failed.

LaRouche showings on "Super Tuesday" were: Alabama 845 votes, .21%; Arkansas 2,347, .47%; Kentucky 681, .24%, Louisiana 1,707, .27%; Maryland unavailable until April 6; Massachusetts 1,001, .14%; Mississippi 1,200, .34%; Missouri 691, .13%; Oklahoma 1,078, .27%; Texas 9,084, .52%; Virginia unavailable until March 28.

In Montgomery County, Indiana, the Indiana Ku Klux Klan Grand Dragon, Ken Taylor, is running in the Democratic primary for County Coroner.

INITIATIVES

The Initiative Resource Center, an organization which helps groups trying to qualify initiatives, is moving from Washington, D.C., to San Francisco. Temporarily the address is c/o David Schmidt, Bx 8284, Berkeley Ca 94707, phone (415) 526-0874. The Center is publishing a book about initiatives which will be out soon.

LIBERTARIAN PETITIONING

The petitioning chart shows the most commonly-used procedure for each state, so for North Dakota it shows the independent method. However, the Libertarian Party is attempting party status in North Dakota, which requires 7,000 signatures, due April 20. In Nebraska, a new party which submits its petition by February 10 is permitted to have its own primary, and no further petitioning is needed for any of its candidates. A new party which doesn't submit its petition by February 10 can still be recognized if it submits its petition by August 1, but then it must nominate by convention and must submit a separate candidate petition of 2,500 signatures for its presidential candidate and 25 signatures each for its other candidates. The candidate petitions are due August 30. The Libertarian Party tried to qualify by the February 10 deadline, but was 53 signatures short, so instead will qualify to be a convention party.

The Libertarian Party is actively seeking people who will seek work as full-time petitioners. Anyone interested should call Ron Paul headquarters at (713) 333-1988.

Ted Brown, chair of the California Libertarian Party, is about to mail a fund-raising letter to the state party list, to help with national ballot access. Texas Libertarians, who are already on the ballot, are helping with the Oklahoma Libertarian petition. Melinda Pillsbury-Foster, member of the national committee, is working to get other Libertarian Parties which are already on the ballot, to assist with neighboring states which are hard-pressed to finish their petitions.

PETITIONING

On February 24, 1988, the Oregon State Court of Appeals ruled that the free speech provisions of the Oregon Constitution require shopping centers to permit petitioning on the parts of their property which are generally open to the public. *Lloyd Corporation v Lucille Whitten*, #A38839.

Also on February 24, U. S. District Judge Howell W. Melton of Jacksonville, Florida, issued an injunction against Florida law which bans anyone from talking to voters within 150 feet of a polling place. The case, *Florida Committee for Liability Reform v McMillan*, #88-113-CIV-J12, was brought by proponents of an initiative who wanted to petition outside polling places on "Super Tuesday". The new rule is that petitioners must stay 50 feet away from the polling place.

COFOE

The Coalition for Free and Open Elections is an organization devoted to working for fair election laws. Individuals are encouraged to join. Your ideas for building the Coalition are welcome. The Coalition address is Box 1885, Annapolis Md 21404. Dues are $10 per year.

ONE-STATE PARTIES

There are several "third" parties which are already qualified for the ballot in a single state. Competition is usually keen for various third party presidential candidates to win the nomination of these one-state parties, so that the candidate need not petition in such states.

AMERICAN INDEPENDENT PARTY, California: will hold a presidential primary on June 7, 1988, between Col. James "Bo" Gritz of Nevada, and Jim Griffith of California. *Ballot Access News* of February 1988 erroneously stated that Gritz would be unopposed. The primary is only advisory; the party will choose its candidate at its state convention in Sacramento on August 27-28. Gritz' chances of getting the AIP presidential nomination are diminished, since he has accepted the Populist Party's vice-presidential nomination.

The American Independent Party was formerly affiliated with the Populist Party.

PEACE & FREEDOM PARTY, California: will hold a presidential primary on June 7, which is only advisory. The party's nominee will be chosen at its state convention somewhere in Alameda County (probably Oakland or Berkeley) August 13-14. Delegates to the convention will be chosen at the same June 7 primary. Supporters of Herb Lewin (Internationalist Workers Party) and Lenora Fulani (New Alliance Party) filed the most candidates for delegate spots, with a considerable number also being contested by supporters of Willa Kenoyer (Socialist Party) and a small number by supporters of Larry Holmes (Workers World Party).

ILLINOIS SOLIDARITY PARTY: Lenora Fulani was the only candidate on the presidential primary of the Illinois Solidarity Party, on March 15. The party elected about 20 party officers, including 17 who support Fulani, so it seems clear that the party will nominate Fulani as its candidate. Only a few hundred voters in the state chose to vote in the party's primary.

LIBERTY UNION PARTY, Vermont: Held a binding presidential primary on March 1. Willa Kenoyer of the Socialist Party won the nomination with 199 votes, defeating Herb Lewin of the Internationalist Workers Party, who polled 65 votes. The two candidates both campaigned vigorously in Vermont, facing each other in joint forums at least three times.

LABOR-FARM PARTY, Wisconsin: Probably will choose to run no one for president, since the State Board of Elections has ruled that the party's status will not be jeopardized if it abstains from statewide races this year. There will probably be a mail ballot of the party's members to decide.

WRITE-INS

On February 24, Virginia Circuit Court Judge Randall G. Johnson refused to order the Virginia Board of Elections to make provision for write-in votes for president in general elections. The Virginia Constitution guarantees the right to cast a write-in vote in general elections. Judge Johnson seemed to agree that this applies to presidential elections, but he made the odd decision that since only the legislature can make provision for such write-ins, there is nothing that he, as a judge, can do. The ruling is strange, because it is very well established that the defendant in cases involving the constitutionality of election laws and election policies can seldom correct the problem, of his or her own authority. Suing a Secretary of State, or a State Board of Elections, is just a technique to get the issue into court; no one really blames any Secretary of State for enforcing a law which is allegedly unconstitutional. The case, *Paul v State Board of Elections*, will be appealed to the State Supreme Court, which must hear it, but which may take a year or more.

In Kentucky, there is currently in case in the U. S. Court of Appeals, 6th circuit, involving Kentucky's ban on write-ins for president in general elections. However, the judges may not reach that issue, since the voter-plaintiffs are under age 18 and will probably be held to lack standing to challenge the law. *Bumppo v Kentucky Board of Elections*, #87-5416. The case received bad publicity because at least one voter-plaintiff reportedly wanted to write-in "Big Bird" for president.

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

On March 9, the SWP announced its national ticket: James Mac Warren, 36, for president, and Kathleen Mickells, 37, for vice-president. Each has run once for Congress. Warren received over 2% of the vote in a Massachusetts race in 1976, in which there was both a Democrat and a Republican in the race as well. Mickells was nominated to run in West Virginia in 1986, but her petitions were held to be insufficient and she did not appear on the ballot.

The campaign announced that it would try to qualify the ticket in 20 states, beginning with petition campaigns in New Jersey and Utah.

The campaign can be reached at 79 Leonard St., New York, N. Y. 10013, (212) 226-8474.