

CLARK PRESIDENT

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Dear Friend:

Tremendous news! We've decided to do the impossible - to go all out for ballot status in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia!

Why did we make this decision?

As the Clark campaign gathers momentum, it's clear that total nationwide ballot status will really shake up the political system, and will allow Ed Clark to reach the full potential of his campaign. When we ask the news media to cover us, or to include Ed Clark on the presidential debates, we face the same question: "In how many states will you be on the ballot?"

The people who make these decisions - the reporters, the political observers, the opinion-makers, and, in some cases, the bureaucrats - use ballot status as a measure of our strength. If we don't have 50-state ballot status, they will claim that we're not really a national movement. It will give them an "out." For they don't want to see the system change.

But if Ed Clark does get 50-state ballot status - a feat accomplished only once in over a half century - we will have proved beyond question that we are a serious national political phenomenon which deserves to be covered because we will have accomplished what most people think is impossible!

When the Clark campaign started, we thought we could get ballot status in 45 states, including some which are very difficult: Massachusetts, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Florida, and Montana. We knew that it would cost about \$100,000 to make it in these states, and that it would cost as much as \$90,000 more to make it in the five most difficult states: Maryland, Georgia, Oklahoma, Missouri, and West Virginia.

We just didn't know about those last five states. We didn't know if we had the resources or the local commitment even to try.

Maryland changed all that. Libertarians in Maryland stunned us by raising over \$15,000 in a few weeks toward a ballot drive which requires 100,000 signatures! This extraordinary commitment by Maryland Libertarians convinced

us that the same thing could be accomplished in the other "impossible" states, and that we could have total nationwide ballot status if we wanted it badly enough.

Here's our present situation:

We have completed, or nearly completed, our ballot drives in 28 states. We've started ballot drives in every other state where the law allows us to at this point in time. We are confident of making it in the 45 states we originally targeted. And in Maryland, the drive is not only under way, it's actually ahead of schedule!

In Georgia, Oklahoma, Missouri, and West Virginia, local Libertarians are raising money and setting up their ballot drive organizations, with fulltime coordinators and close cooperation with the national campaign. Signatures are already being collected by volunteers and paid petitioners.

The requirements in these four states are very high. Georgia requires 85,000 signatures; Oklahoma requires 60,000; Missouri requires 40,000. West Virginia requires only 10,000 signatures, but its ballot access law is so convoluted and draconian that no one other than a Republican or a Democrat has appeared on its ballot in 12 years.

As difficult as these requirements are, our experience in Maryland proved that we can do it. We have the extraordinary commitment of the Libertarians in these states, who realize that the national success of the Clark campaign in 1980 to a large extent depends on their efforts.

We know we can do it, and, more importantly, we know we must do it if we are to be regarded as a truly national campaign - if Ed Clark is to get the major news media coverage he deserves, and if he is to have a chance to be included in the presidential debates.

What will it take to collect the 195,000 signatures required for ballot status in Georgia, Oklahoma, Missouri, and West Virginia? Four ingredients: Time, know-how, commitment and money.

We have the time. Fortunately, we made our decision early enough that we still have the time to get the necessary signatures.

We have the know-how. We have enthusiastic, capable coordinators for all our difficult ballot drives who will devote full time both to recruiting volunteers and to the hiring and training of hundreds of paid petitioners - the only effective means to success in difficult states.

We have the commitment. Libertarians in these four states, like those in Maryland, have made an extraordinary commitment to the success of their ballot drives - a commitment which has rarely been equalled in the history of the Libertarian party.

The money? We have some of that, but not nearly enough. When the campaign started, we thought we needed at least \$75,000 in national funds to make it in the four toughest states. But Libertarians in those states

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have agreed to raise roughly half of that amount from their own sources.

That leaves us \$35 - \$40,000 short of national ballot status, money which we did not have in our original budget, and which we do not have now.

The only way to raise this money and to achieve national ballot status - to do the impossible - is to make this special appeal to you for the necessary funds.

I'm asking each of you to make an extraordinary commitment, in the same way that Libertarians in these "impossible" states have already made such a commitment. Libertarians who normally give \$10, \$25 or \$50 have increased that contribution three, five, and even ten-fold!

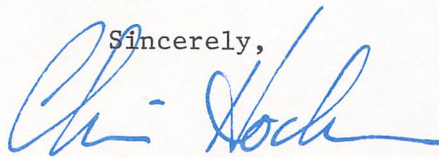
Why? Because they are convinced of the necessity of total nationwide ballot status for Ed Clark, and they know how much it will mean not only for their own states but also for the national campaign.

I hope you share their conviction, and will agree to make an extraordinary commitment of your own. Please contribute toward national ballot status, and please consider at least doubling, tripling or quintupling what you might ordinarily give toward this uniquely important effort.

With national ballot status, Ed Clark will really shake up the political system. He can achieve the full potential of this campaign.

Please help.

Sincerely,



Chris Hocker
National Coordinator

P.S. If, after reading this letter, you're not sure whether or not you want to contribute, I urge you to remember that the establishment politicians, the news media, and the opinion makers are betting that we won't make it. What's more, most of them are hoping that we won't make it - they're happy with the system the way it is, and the last thing they want is Ed Clark proving that the Libertarian party is truly a national movement and the wave of the future. We have a chance right now to beat them with their own rules - to meet their standard of ballot status in all 50 states - but we must move immediately and decisively, or we cannot move at all. Thousands of people have already made their commitment - won't you please make yours?