

NEWS RELEASE

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May 1980

CLARK QUALIFIED IN ELECTORAL MAJORITY

With the filing of an estimated 73,000 signatures in Massachusetts last Tuesday, Libertarian presidential candidate Ed Clark has met ballot access requirements in 29 states, totaling 285 electoral votes.

A total of 270 electoral votes constitutes the required majority in the Electoral College, which ultimately chooses the winner of the presidential contest.

Massachusetts requires slightly more than 39,000 of Clark's 73,000 signatures to be valid.

On Wednesday, the Oregon Secretary of State officially certified Clark and a slate of statewide Libertarian candidates for the ballot. Oregon Libertarians had collected an estimated 45,000 valid signatures, representing five per cent of the registered voters.

According to state officials, the Libertarian effort was the first time in memory that a new party slate had qualified in

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Oregon via the petitioning method. Oregon's ballot access requirements are considered to be among the most difficult in the United States.

Clark's National Coordinator, Chris Hocker, who is in charge of the national ballot drive effort, said the Libertarian candidate will qualify for the ballot in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. "We've not missed a deadline yet," said Hocker, "and we're on target or ahead of schedule in the remaining 21 states."

According to Hocker, no other third party presidential candidate will qualify for the ballot in enough states to constitute an electoral majority. "The only party we thought might have a shot at it was the Citizens party," said Hocker, "and since they didn't even turn in the minimum number of signatures in Massachusetts, it's apparent they don't have the organization to do it." Presently, no other third party candidate has qualified in as many as 10 states.

Splinter parties are not expected to do any better than in 1976, Hocker said, pointing out that the Socialist Workers party candidate for president, Andrew Pulley who is 29 years old, did not meet the constitutionally mandated minimum age of 35.

"It's worth noting that even John Anderson will be on the ballot in fewer states than Ed Clark," Hocker said. Clark has met the requirement in the five states whose deadlines had passed prior to the announcement of Anderson's independent candidacy.

The following is a list of the states in which Clark has met ballot requirements:

<u>STATES</u>	<u>ELECTORAL VOTES</u>
Alabama	9
Alaska	3
Arizona	6
Arkansas	6
California	45
Colorado	7
Delaware*	3
Hawaii	4
Idaho	4
Illinois*	26
Iowa*	8
Kansas	7
Kentucky	9
Maine	4
Massachusetts	14
Michigan	21
Mississippi	7
Montana*	4
Nevada	3
New Hampshire *	4
New Jersey	17
New Mexico	4
North Carolina	13
North Dakota*	3
Ohio	25
Oregon	6
South Carolina	8
Vermont	4
Wisconsin	11
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>285</u>

* Gross signature requirements have been met but petitions have not yet been turned in due to legal constraints on when they can be submitted, or because the state Clark committee is planning to submit them in conjunction with some other event.