

## The Libertarian Party of Tennessee (LPTN) Ballot Access Drive

### BALLOT ACCESS BEST METHOD:

- Ask “Excuse me, are you a registered voter in TN?”
- If yes, “Would you like to see more options next time you vote?”
- **Developing the voter to respond yes multiple times will likely get them to say “yes” when you ask them to sign**
- If yes, “Then, will you please sign my petition for equal ballot access?”

### BALLOT ACCESS OVERVIEW:

- LPTN is working on ballot access for 2018 and beyond
- **LP needs roughly 34,000 VALID signatures of registered TN voters just to have an “L” by any candidates’ name**
- **Rs & Ds only need 25 signatures**
- This is not having equal ballot access
- Currently TN lists all other political parties, that are not R or D, as “independent”

### BALLOT ACCESS PETITION FAQs ANSWERS:

- Signing the petition form does **not** sign you up on any type of mailing list
- This information is provided directly to TN Election Commission, which already has this public information and is only verifying you are a registered voter

### RULES FOR GATHERING SIGNATURES:

- Download and use only the approved petition form authorized by attorneys in the Secretary of State’s office (found [here](#))
- Consider using the [GoVoteTN Webpage](#) or [App](#) to confirm that petition info and voter registration match

### BALLOT ACCESS [HISTORY](#):

- In 1961 TN Legislature officially defined a political party
- House Bill 287 is used as a justification for having the State of TN more specifically define a political party
- The intent of the law was to keep new political parties off the ballot in TN
- Ballot access rules regulate the conditions under which a candidate or political party is entitled either to stand for election or to appear on voters’ ballots
- Current law requires alternative political parties to submit petitions with the number of signatures equal to 2.5% of the votes cast in the last election for governor
- Based on the 2014 election for governor, the number of signatures required for the Libertarian Party to be recognized in TN is 33,844 VALID signatures of registered voters in TN

### SEND COMPLETED PETITION FORMS TO:

Terry Rowe  
113 Big Springs Circle  
Cookeville, TN 38501  
[tjrowetn@gmail.com](mailto:tjrowetn@gmail.com)

Please call 615-922-8200 if you have any questions.

- **Use other info on this sheet if further questions**
- Gather a friend (or few) when going out, especially until you are comfortable by yourself
- Going out with more people allows you to cover more ground and look more official
- Dress nicely and wear a LP pin/shirt/hat
- Leave a folder with petition forms and this sheet in your vehicle at all times and ask people at gas stations/etc.

- This does not help the voter to be well-informed when voting in November
- **Allowing Libertarian candidates to be labeled as “Libertarians” instead of “independents” will give voters more information on Election Day**
- Our goal is to collect 67,688 signatures, double the amount required, for those that may not match voter’s voter registration record

- Must be a registered voter in TN
- Voters do **not** have to vote for our candidate in March, we are just merely seeking equal access to the ballot
- The amount of signatures required is arbitrarily set to 2.5% of the votes cast in the last gubernatorial election

- Search the voters name and zip code into GoVoteTN
- Only collect signatures from ONE county on each page
- Fill in all the spaces on a petition page
- While we appreciate every signature collected. We really need fully completed forms to reach our goal

- To be valid, all the information on the petition must match the info in the voter’s voter registration record
- Generally, petition drives collect twice the number of required signatures to ensure they have the required number of signatures after invalid signatures are excluded. Thus, we want to collect 67,688 signatures
- Currently Libertarian candidates appear on the ballot as independent candidates. Tennessee makes it very easy for independent candidates (25 signatures for most offices and 275 signatures for President of the United States) to appear on the ballot
- When the LPTN gains ballot access, our candidates will be able to appear on the ballot as Libertarians
- Since 1961, over 90% of independent Presidential candidates appearing on the ballot in TN have actually been the nominees of an alternative political party