

Libertarian Party

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April 6, 1976

file
Mr. Charles Koch
P.O. Box 2256
Wichita, Kansas 67201

Dear Charles:

Just thought I'd take a moment to update you on the campaign. Overall, things are proceeding reasonably well. What we lack more than anything is responsible leadership at the state level. Happily, many people seem to be "growing up" in office and rising to the challenge. A year ago I thought that obtaining ballot status in 20 states would be quite an accomplishment, all things considered. Today I feel confident we can make it on the ballot in 30 states and it is not out of the question that we could be on in an additional 5 or 10 states if things really get rolling.

Of immediate concern are our petition drives in Michigan and Hawaii, both of which have early May deadlines. We are putting a lot of our resources into the Michigan situation (17,000 net signatures required) and hope to salvage what has been a uniquely inept organization in that state. In Hawaii the requirement is not nearly so onerous (3,800 signatures) but we've never had a strong organization there and I am trying to make personal telephone contacts to activists I know in order to insure success. I am reasonably confident we will make it on the ballot in both of those states.

In Alabama we turned in 6,900 signatures (as opposed to the previously reported 7700 signatures) and the various probate judges have verified 4,360. The Secretary of State has been most cordial to us and she is in the process of sending back rejected signatures and asking that judges go over them once more so we still have our fingers crossed there.

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One of the most important states to us is California and the state legislature there is currently discussing a bill that would greatly reduce the requirement for independent ballot status. We have perhaps our best organization in California and if we were to get a reasonable signature requirement I think Roger could pull up to 200,000 names there. The party, I would estimate, is capable of collecting 100,000 signatures in two months and some of the legislative proposals are in that ballpark. In addition, there are two court cases pending that may have a positive impact on our situation there.

We are officially on the ballot now in Utah and Kentucky. In Ohio we turned in 9,300 signatures which should be more than enough given the 5,000 signature requirement. Louisiana and New Jersey will be filing sometime this month and there are no problems in either of those states. As far as your own state is concerned we may be joining the McCarthy group in a suit to obtain independent status.

I am enclosing direct mail packets we've used to send to doctors and gun enthusiasts. Our hope was that special interest groups would be inclined to support us given their strong feeling in their major area of concern. We also used the approach of using the money to run the ad because we felt there was a more direct inducement to do that than just to support the more nebulous concept of a new political party. Unfortunately, the early returns from both these mailings have been very discouraging and they tell me it's too early to tell for sure but I am already discounting the prospects we had for mailing to other specialized groups such as independent truckers, gays, hard money people and marijuana types. We shall see.

Roger has turned out to be a very good candidate and I am most pleased with the way he is handling himself around the country. The media generally recognize early on that his is an intellect to deal with and they therefore do not treat us as the quixotic movement that a lesser candidate might tempt them to.

Roger and I saw Reagan on TV together and both feel that Roger is already at a stage where he could do much better than Reagan. Our hope is to do something of a similar nature after the Republican and Democratic conventions.

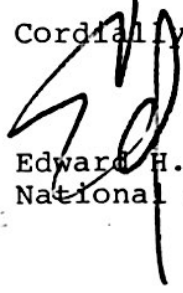
Charles Koch

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Please keep in mind your open invitation to send us comments or suggestions whenever you get the notion.

Cordially,



Edward H. Crane, III
National Chairman

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Enclosures