



**FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF ILLINOIS

Illinois Voters Deserve More Competitive Elections

Pass Senate Bill 733 and Bring Fair Ballot Access to Illinois

Ever go vote and get irritated by the number of uncontested races on your ballot? Do you think a little competition might make your elected representatives more responsive to your concerns? There's something you can do about it. Contact your Illinois Representative and tell him or her to support Senate Bill 733.

Under current law, "new" parties and independent candidates must gather many times the number of signatures as "established" parties to get on the ballot. A Libertarian governor candidate, for example, is required to file 25,000 valid petition signatures. A Democrat or Republican, only 5000.

The formula is more complicated for other campaigns, but averages have been worked out by the Coalition for Free and Equal Elections to illustrate the issue. For the Illinois Senate, a Republican or Democrat would file 1000 signatures while a new party candidate needs an average of 3110 and independents, 6220. For the Illinois House, a Republican or Democrat needs 500 signatures, while a new party candidate would need an average of 2267 and independents, 4534.

This discrimination against citizens who would like to take part in our political process is not only unfair, it's un-American. This country was founded on the principle of equal opportunity and it's time we showed it in Illinois.

Senate Bill 733, sponsored by Senators Michael Frerichs, William Haine, Don Harmon, Gary Dahl, and Frank Watson, would level the playing field. It makes petition signature requirements for new parties and independent candidates exactly the same as for established parties.

On March 30 this bill passed the Senate 53 to 0, dramatically demonstrating support for fair and equal election laws in Illinois. But after moving to the House, SB733 was shunted to the Executive Committee, where it sits. With time running out before the end of session on May 31, only concerted action by citizens who want better government in Illinois can get it brought to the House floor for a vote.

When election campaigns are uncontested, voters are left without the means to hold their representatives accountable. Fair signature requirements will encourage many more citizens to run for office, putting competitive pressure on politicians across Illinois.

It's time to bring fairness to Illinois election law. It's time to tell Illinois Representatives to join Rep. William Black and co-sponsor this bill in the House. It's time for the House Executive Committee to move it to the floor for a vote. It's time to pass SB733 and bring much-needed competition to Illinois elections.

Equal opportunity and voter choice. Isn't that what elections are all about?

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