



# OBAR Oklahomans for Ballot Access Reform

a coalition of Oklahomans working for FAIR laws that give voters genuine choices



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Dear Friend,

**Oklahoma was the ONLY state with just two choices for president in 2004.**

Oklahomans for Ballot Access Reform, a coalition of third party members and independents, wants to give Oklahomans more voter choice by opening the process to third parties. **Could you volunteer or contribute to our initiative petition drive to reform Oklahoma's ballot law, considered the most restrictive in the nation?**

Voter choice also suffered again in the 2006 general election, when HALF of Oklahoma legislature races went UNOPPOSED. How can elected officials be held accountable when there is only one candidate running for many positions?

To form a new political party in 2006, current law required over 73,000 signatures. That was over TEN TIMES the per capita requirement of many neighboring states.

OBAR has worked for years to reform our ballot laws by introducing numerous bills into our state legislature. But politicians have denied them all a vote. A lawsuit was appealed to the state Supreme Court this year; but the court refused to hear the case, even though **the Oklahoma Constitution guarantees "free and equal" elections.**

**Let's celebrate Oklahoma's Centennial right by respecting the original democratic intent expressed by our state founders.**

We plan to use the initiative petition process to **take the issue of election fairness directly to a vote of the people.** Richard Winger, editor of Ballot Access News and the foremost expert on ballot access in the nation, has met with us and agrees that **this is our best opportunity to change the law once and for all.**

This initiative would return the number of signatures for recognition of political party back to 5,000; the number required in Oklahoma from 1924 until 1974. It would also make it more reasonable for a party to demonstrate support and stay on the ballot.

We have the ballot access petition ready to submit to the state and plan to **start petitioning in September of this year.** We are working to secure the resources to collect 74,000 valid signatures in 90 days.

Our local supporters have already pledged HALF of the needed signatures. **We also have an anonymous donor willing to give \$25,000 if we can first raise \$50,000.** Could you help gather signatures or make a contribution to the petition effort?

We are confident that voters will support a more open democratic process. Similar ballot questions recently passed in Florida and Massachusetts.

We see success on the horizon, but we need volunteers and financing to make this initiative petition work. Funds raised will pay for hiring and training petitioners, as well as promoting the ballot question and the issue of voter choice.

**Please make an investment today in the future of Oklahoma's democratic process by donating to "Oklahomans for Ballot Access Reform".** Donations or inquiries on how to volunteer can be mailed to PO Box 14042, Tulsa, OK 74159 or made online.

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