



OBAR Oklahomans for Ballot Access Reform

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



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Dear Legislative Candidate:

Enclosed is a copy of Oklahomans for Ballot Access Reform's (OBAR) 2006 information packet. It describes why **Oklahoma has the nation's worst ballot access laws** and how we can reform them.

OBAR is a coalition that asks the question: What good is the right to vote if only one person is on the ballot?

Unfortunately, voters will have only **one choice** in 38 Oklahoma House elections this November. In those districts, independents and voters not in the party of the candidate and will have no say in electing their representatives. Even if a second candidate is unsuccessful, they can help engage voters, legitimize the results, and register, to some degree, the variation in political views.

Oklahoma was also the **only** state in 2004 allowing just two choices for president. Half of the states had at least six candidates on the ballot. This is just another effect of Oklahoma's restrictive ballot access laws.

Instead, Oklahomans deserve a democratic process that allows their voices to be heard.

OBAR seeks to reform our ballot access by returning the number of signatures for recognition of political party back to its historical number of 5,000. The current law (changed in 1974) required over 73,000 valid signatures for a party to form this year.

Most people are surprised to hear about Oklahoma's closed democratic system. So far, we have received a positive response to our call for reform. At least 40 of this year's legislative candidates have already said they support reform of Oklahoma's restrictive ballot access laws. Please let us know your position on this important issue.

You can learn more about ballot access on our website. Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments regarding our effort at 405-370-3431.

Sincerely,

David Splinter

www.oklp.org/obbar/index.html