

LP Ballot Access Priorities for 2026

Submitted by the Ballot Access Committee

Steve Dasbach (Chair), Bill Redpath (Ballot Access Coordinator), Tony D’Orazio, Andy Jacobs, Harrison Kemp, Michael Pakko, Jake Porter.

April 23, 2026.

Motion: The Ballot Access Committee requests that the LNC/EC encumber \$45k to place our Auditor candidate on the ballot in Massachusetts. [The requirement is 5,000 valid signatures.]

Rationale: He is running in a race with no Republican, and so is virtually guaranteed to receive the 3% needed to secure Presidential ballot access for 2028. A Presidential drive in 2028 would require 10,000 valid signatures, at double the cost (plus inflation).

Approved by the committee April 23, 2026 without objection.

Overview

States where we are on for President in 2028 (22)	AK, AZ, CA, CO, DE, FL, GA (pres only), HI, LA, ME, MS, MO, MT, NE, NC, OK, OR, SC, SD, TX, UT, WV
States where we are likely on for President in 2028 (7)	ID (run 3 candidates), IN (2% SoS), KS (1% any statewide), MI (easy vote test), NV (easy vote test), WI (1% any statewide), WY 2% (U.S. House, Gov, or SoS)
States where we can earn 2028 status in 2026 (6)	AR (3% Gov) OH (3% Gov) MD (10k sigs ) DC (3k sigs + 7.5k votes) [7.5k = ~3.75% in 2022] IA (3.5k sig + 2% Gov) [new law requires 3 in a row] MA (5k for lower statewide office + 3% any statewide) [NH (3k sigs + 4% Gov) - unlikely to retain]
States where we can earn 2028 status in 2027 (2)	ND (7k sigs party petition) VT (reorganize 10 towns) [plus AR (10k sigs party pet) if we fail to retain in 2026]
States that should start petitioning post convention in 2028 (10)	AL (5k sigs), CT (7.5k sigs), KY (5k sigs), NH (3k sigs), NJ (2k sigs), NM (3.5k+), PA (5k sigs), RI (1k sigs), TN (275 sigs), VA (5k sigs) [plus IA, MA, OH if unsuccessful in 2026]
States that can’t start petitioning right away in 2028 (4)	IL (25k sigs in 12 weeks), MN (2k sigs), NY (45k sigs in 6 weeks), WA (1k sigs) [plus DC if unsuccessful in 2026]

Ballot Access Committee priorities for 2026:

1. Make sure states are running candidates in the seven states that are likely to retain status for 2028.

2. Qualify our statewide candidate for Auditor in Massachusetts. There is no Democrat in the race, so we are virtually guaranteed in earning presidential status for 2028 at half what a Presidential petition would cost in 2028.
3. Complete the MD petition drive prior to November 2026. After discussion with the LPMD chair, we have moved MA ahead of MD. If MD doesn't submit signatures by July 1, they are still valid for 2028 and 2030. The only statewide candidate willing to run in 2026 would be a lineholder. We want to finish the drive by November - otherwise we will lose a few hundred signatures over the next several months since they are only good for two years.
4. Assess after the May 2 convention the status of the drives in IA and the likelihood of gaining ballot status for 2028.
5. Determine if there is anything we can realistically do to increase the likelihood of success in meeting vote tests in AR & OH, plus IA, DC, and/or MA if they get on the ballot. If so, provide that support.
6. Explore lobbying and/or legal options in AL, GA, IL, NY & VA to improve ballot access, as well as legal options to ensure petitioner access (including post offices).
7. MN has requested fundraising/petitioning assistance to qualify all of their statewide candidates (2k sigs in 2 weeks for each). They estimate that they will need help collecting 2,500 of the 7,500 signatures needed to qualify all three candidates.

Status of current ballot drives:

MD: 6,500 gross signatures collected, combination of volunteer and paid. Spending the remaining \$28,000 of LPMD funds for the drive, plus the \$15,000 from the LNC, should bring them to about 12,500 gross signatures. They will continue collecting using the funds they have set aside, plus the funds received by the LNC, but more cash from the LNC will likely be needed to complete this petition drive.

Funding requests for 2026, in priority order:

1. \$15,000 for Maryland was already approved and sent. No additional request at this time, but likely later in 2026.
2. \$45,000 for MA ballot drive to place our Auditor candidate on the ballot. We request that these funds be encumbered asap, and distributed as requested by Ballot Access Coordinator Bill Redpath.
3. \$35,000 for IA or DC ballot drive, subject to recruiting a candidate capable of meeting the vote test (combined LNC and state affiliate funding/equivalent in volunteer signatures). IA would start once they nominate a candidate. DC can't start until June.
4. \$35,000 for the other state ballot drives, subject to the same conditions.