

Oklahomans for Ballot Access Reform

A coalition of Oklahomans working for fair laws that give voters genuine choices

Micah Gamino, Press Coordinator
Phone: 405-642-5732
E-Mail: press@okvoterchoice.org
www.okvoterchoice.org

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NEW PARTIES TO LAUNCH HISTORIC INITIATIVE, EYE 2016 BALLOT

OKLAHOMA CITY – On Monday, June 15, the Oklahoma Libertarian and Greens parties will launch an unprecedented, joint petitioning campaign for the 2016 election ballot. Party leaders will hold a brief news conference with the media at 4 p.m. in the first-floor rotunda of the Oklahoma State Capitol building; thereafter, party leaders will proceed to the state election board office, room B6, to file their intentions.

The Libertarian Part of Oklahoma is seeking state recognition for the first time since 2000, when Harry Browne was voters' last non-major-party option for US president. Greens, meanwhile, have never placed a party-label candidate on the ballot. Their closest attempt came in support of Ralph Nader's best run in 2000; however, the drive moved the state's loose confederation of local chapters to unite as the first state Green Party of Oklahoma in 2004. Both parties now hope their newly formed alliance can take advantage of the state's lowest petition signature requirement since 1974.

Anyone interested in volunteering for this historic petition drive is invited to attend a free training event, from 1 – 2 p.m. Saturday, June 20, at the Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library, 300 Park Avenue, in Oklahoma City.

Official statement from the Libertarian Party of Oklahoma:

"The Oklahoma Libertarian Party strongly believes that a government of the people and by the people can only work if every citizen is engaged and allowed to vote for true representation at the ballot box. Therefore we are proud to partner with the Green Party of Oklahoma in a campaign designed to boost the chances of both groups being recognized in 2016. We join with them in spreading and promoting the positive message of accessible and accountable government through the expansion of voter choice. By actively petitioning for both parties simultaneously we say to the world that while our two parties may differ in terms of political ideology, we are not afraid for those ideologies to compete in a fair and honest marketplace. On the contrary, we welcome the opportunity with the knowledge that such exchanges can only make each other and our state stronger."

Official statement from the Green Party of Oklahoma:

"The Green Party of Oklahoma believes in building relationships across party differences and bringing balanced representation to public dialogue and decision-making. While Green and Libertarian positions on multiple issues vary widely, we also share valuable common ground. Our alliance with the Libertarian Party of Oklahoma in this ballot access petitioning effort sets the example of the kind of nonpartisan cooperation we would like to see more of in our local and national government. Getting both parties on the ballot in Oklahoma insures more views and voices are counted, and that all Oklahoma voters see their interests represented on the ballot. This is a fundamental goal on which we all agree true democracy depends. We are excited to work together for this cause."

For more information, visit WWW.OKVOTERCHOICE.ORG.

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