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LIBERTARIANS FILE FEDERAL SUIT AGAINST KENTUCKY

Covington, KY (May 6, 2019) -- The Kentucky State Legislature changed 2019 ballot access law, **RETROACTIVELY**. State election officials have notified all Libertarian candidates that their Statements of Candidacy for the November 5th General Election have been rejected.

The Libertarian Party of Kentucky (LPKY) has filed suit and a motion for injunction is pending. LPKY claims that two Bills passed by the 2019 State Legislature are unconstitutional because they violate long standing constitutional limitations on filing deadlines for third parties. The party brought suit in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky to have its candidates placed on the 2019 ballot.

Specifically, House Bill 114 and Senate Bill 60 require third party and independent candidates to file Statements of Candidacy ten months prior to the General Election. Libertarians say this requirement is excessive and unnecessary. Further, HB 114 shows the Legislature's contempt for the rule of law by changing third party ballot access requirements, **RETROACTIVELY**. Thereby eliminating any chance for third party candidates to file candidacy papers, timely.

Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin (R) signed HB 114 into law March 19, 2019. The Bill moved the 2019 deadline for filing Statements of Candidacy back from April 1st to January 11th. Subsequently, the Kentucky Board of Elections and the Boone County Board of Elections, rejected the filing statements of all Libertarian candidates, even though they met the original April 1st deadline.



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This is another unconstitutional attempt by the Republican controlled Kentucky State Legislature to prohibit third parties from participating in the political process. These bills violate the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution.

The suit was filed by The Libertarian Party of Kentucky and Libertarian candidates John Hicks for Governor, Ann Cormican for Lieutenant Governor, Kyle Hugenberg for Auditor, Joshua Gilpin for Commissioner of Agriculture, Kyle Sweeney for Boone County Clerk and Cristi Kendrick for Boone County office in 2020.

The Kentucky General Assembly has a long history of preferential treatment for Democrats and Republicans at the expense of third party candidates. Kentucky taxpayers pay for the primaries of the two biggest parties but not any others. Libertarians pay for their own nominating conventions. They don't think taxpayers should pay for any party's nomination process. But the State Legislature put it into law that taxpayers foot the bill for Democrats and Republicans, only. Libertarians would like to change that law. Libertarians believe taxpayers should not be burdened with the costs of any political party's nomination process.

The Libertarian Party of Kentucky (LPKY) is the third-largest political party in Kentucky. It is the official Kentucky affiliate of the Libertarian Party (USA). The purpose of the Party is to promote libertarianism and elect candidates to office. The Kentucky affiliate has existed since 1974.

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