

## **Mclain, Joseph E**

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**From:** AN HONORABLE PROFESSION R.G. PAUL <helpkidsreadmore@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2020 3:00 PM  
**To:** Elections  
**Subject:** 2020 Election

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To: Indiana Election Commission:

I am following up with you on my previous two emails concerning ballot access for 3rd Party candidates in the November 2020 election.

I am running for County Commissioner as a Green Party candidate in Monroe County. To get on the ballot, I need to obtain over 1000 signatures by the end of June. I have been active in politics for over 35 years and have managed ballot access initiatives several times over that period of time. I entered 2020 thinking that getting enough signatures to get on the Fall ballot would not be a problem.

Then things obviously changed. With the Stay at Home orders, businesses closed, Indiana University closed ( The Green Parties main base of support) and practicing social distance of being 6 feet apart from each other, makes it all but impossible for me, or any 3rd party candidate from participating in the 2020 election. If a candidate does obtain that many signatures during this Pandemic, I would suspect they did not follow all the safety measures put into practice to safeguard the public. I believe political candidates need to be a role model to the public, especially if their actions put human lives at risk.

I am respectfully asking the Commission to allow online signatures on our petition for ballot access. I have thought a great deal about possible solutions to this problem, and it seems fair and consistent with current policy to make this change. If a voter can register to vote online, it seems reasonable to allow that same voter to sign a petition for ballot access. If a voter can pay taxes on line, then it also seems reasonable for that taxpayer to be able to sign a petition for ballot access online.

I truly hope that you will allow online signatures for 3rd Party candidates for ballot access. If you don't , then I honestly believe all 3rd Party candidates will essentially be blocked from the 2020 election.

We have lost so much time already, so swift action will be needed for many of us to get the required signatures. If possible, an extension of the June deadline into July would certainly help all 3rd Party candidates qualify in their petition drives.

If possible, I would like to talk with Commission members during your April 22nd meeting. I know the Commission is handling a lot of issues due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, and I appreciate your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Randy G. Paul  
Green Party candidate  
Monroe County Commissioners

Helpkidsreadmore@yahoo.com