

Subject: Re: Ballot Access

Date: 5/28/20

Hello,

I am an Indiana resident. I care deeply about my local, state, and national community. Part of what makes a community strong is the ability to participate in the political process to ensure that the people's needs are being heard and that lawmakers are held accountable; however, when ballot access is restricted so is the voice of the people.

I am aware that under normal circumstances Indiana require ~45,000 signatures for ballot access for minor party or independent candidates, but with the ongoing pandemic circumstances are anything but normal. Collecting physical signatures is not only difficult with Governor Holcomb's stay-at-home policy, but it is downright dangerous and irresponsible. Door-to-door or event canvassing would result in many inter-personal contacts that increase the chances of spreading COVID-19. With this in mind I implore that the state puts in an effort to either waive, drastically reduce, or otherwise change the required signatures to a ballot access system that does not endanger public health and gives candidates a fair chance to appear on the ballot. This way we can strengthen Indiana's democracy without risking its health.

Thank you for taking the time to read my request and I hope that your office implements some measure to ensure ballot access for candidates without needlessly risking lives.

Regards