

October 9, 1967

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND CAMPAIGN DIRECTORS:

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed you will find reports on the state or states in which you may be helping to obtain ballot status for the 1968 presidential electors.

These reports do not have all the information that will be needed to get on the ballot. They do, however, include enough information to give a general picture of how much work will be required in each state and which states we should work in first.

The most important step now is to draw together the lists of potential electors in these states and start obtaining commitments from people to be electors. We will be unable to do any petitioning in a state until the presidential electors have been obtained. In past elections it has often been the inability to obtain enough electors that has prevented the party from obtaining ballot status in some states where the number of signatures required on nominating petitions is not prohibitive.

A list of the thirty-one states where, after a thorough examination of the election laws, we feel it is possible to work for ballot status is enclosed. This list should be presented to the entire branch membership. The names and descriptions of potential electors that comrades know about in any of these states should be given to the organizer and sent to the national campaign office.

There will be a meeting at the SWP convention of all YSA local organizers, SWP branch organizers and local campaign directors to discuss more fully the election campaign, particularly the questions related to obtaining ballot status.

The meeting will be held at 9:00p.m. on Friday evening, October 27th in a conference room at the Empire Hotel. The only conflict with this meeting will be the press and publications panel. The trade union panel will be held on Thursday evening.

In addition, a letter with more details, including the names of potential electors, will be sent to each area.

There are a few things that should be noted carefully in the enclosed reports. First, the number of presidential electors to which each state is entitled is listed. In most cases this also refers to the number of presidential electors required. However, there are a few exceptions and in those states where it is not clear what the requirement is, the attorney general or secretary of state in the state concerned should be questioned.

It should be noted whether or not the electors must be

from different counties or congressional districts and what age or residence requirements are required.

Second, the number of signatures that must be obtained on nominating petitions and whether or not there are any distribution requirements for these.

Third, the date on which petitioning can begin and the date on which the petitions must be filed. In many states the date on which petitioning can begin is not designated and can only be obtained by writing to the secretary of state or attorney general of the state concerned. These dates are important in helping us to determine what order we will do the states.

Fourth, the sections of election laws referred to pertain only to the nomination of presidential electors and do not necessarily apply to the nomination of candidates for any other state or local offices.

Fifth, some states require a nominating convention often as an alternative to collecting signatures on nominating petitions. These should be noted.

Also enclosed is a list of the states where we feel that it is impossible to get on the ballot for this election. A short description of the requirement which makes it prohibitive is included with each state.

Comradely,


Jack Barnes
Campaign Director

STATES WHERE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET ON THE BALLOT

Alaska: The only way to nominate presidential electors is by party convention, and to be designated a party you must have run a candidate for governor in the last election who received at least 10% of the vote.

Arkansas: Must obtain signatures numbering 15% of all the qualified voters in the state.

California: Must obtain signatures numbering 5% of all votes cast in the last election.

Delaware: The only way to nominate is by setting up a political party. To set up a party you need 50 signatures of voters registered as "independents" in each of 18 senatorial districts.

Florida: Must obtain about 18-19,000 signatures on nominating petitions.

Georgia: Must obtain signatures of 5% of registered voters in the state. (Around 50,000)

Illinois: Need 25,000 qualified voter signatures, with at least 200 from each of 50 counties.

Massachusetts: Need signatures of 3% of votes cast for governor in last election. (About 70,000)

Mississippi: Need 10,000 signatures on nominating petition.

Missouri: Need about 15,000 signatures on nominating petition.

Nebraska: Need state convention with 750 voters gathered under one roof to sign statement to form new party.

Nevada: Need about 6,400 signatures on nominating petition.

North Carolina: Need either 10,000 signatures or signatures of 25% of all registered voters.

Ohio: Would need signatures of 15% of all qualified voters

Oregon: Either 25,000 signatures on a nominating petition or 1,000 electors assembled under one roof.

South Carolina: Need 10,000 signatures on nominating petition.

South Dakota: Present election laws require 4,500 signatures on nominating petition.

West Virginia: Need 8,000 signatures on nominating petition.

Wyoming: Need 6,000 signatures on nominating petition.