

Strategy To Win In 1976

The U.S. Labor Party's LaRouche-Evans presidential petition campaign was launched in February 1976 in Ohio. Upon completion of ballot requirements Sept. 21, the U.S. Labor Party ticket will be on the ballot in 24 states, comprising 59 million voters and 296 electoral votes, or 54 per cent of the electoral college — enough to win. In this eight-month battle, the 330,000 signatures of registered voters collected represents one out of every 470 voting-age persons — in Labor Party ballot states, one out of every 178 registered voters.

No other political party has ever tackled the scale of mass organizing required to get the Labor Party on the ballot. Synthetic FBI parties are resorting to scribbling names from telephone books and voter registration lists "to meet requirements" as a "legitimate party," as demonstrated in the U.S. Labor Party's successful challenge of Eugene McCarthy's petitions in the District of Columbia (see below). Ballot status provides these police groups with a public cover for their actual assignment — harassment and slander of the Labor Party's campaigning. Only lack of funds and limited manpower has prevented the USLP from cleaning the ballot of such refuse in every state.

The Labor Party ticket will be accessible to voters in every major industrial state in the United States.

In the West: Washington, Idaho, and Colorado.

In the Central farm states: Minnesota, Iowa, and North Dakota.

In the industrial Midwest: Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

In the South: North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

In the Mid-Atlantic region: New Jersey, New York, District of Columbia, and Delaware.

In New England: Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

Current State-by-State Rundown

States (Electoral votes)

Colorado (7): Petitions are filed, and certification is pending.

Connecticut (8): Petitions filed, certification is pending

Delaware (3): On the ballot.

District of Columbia (3): On the ballot.

Idaho (4): On the ballot; permanent ballot status granted Sept. 1.

Illinois (26): On the ballot.

Indiana (13): On the ballot. The industrial Midwest belt was nailed down last week when the Ballot Commission in Indiana ruled that even though five of the Labor Party's 13 electors were removed for having also notarized petitions (a technical violation of notary law), the remaining eight electors could serve the function of 13, allowing the party ballot status.

Iowa (8): On the ballot. Two months ago the state's attorney general reinterpreted the law to reduce signature requirements from 18,000 back to the original 1,000, by ruling that 2 at-large electors could place the ticket on the ballot state-wide and could then appoint another 6 in November if the party carried the state.

Kentucky (10): On the ballot.

Massachusetts (14): Requirements have been met, but ballot status is in jeopardy pending legal action.

Michigan (21): On the ballot.

Minnesota (10): Petitions filed, certification is pending.

New Hampshire (4): Petitioning underway to be completed by Sept. 22.

New Jersey (17): On the ballot.

New York (41): Petitions filed. In 25 days of petitioning 38,000 signatures were gathered, almost twice the required amount.

North Carolina (13): On the ballot. The U.S. Labor Party won permanent ballot status here two years ago.

North Dakota (4): Petitioning drive will begin Sept. 13. The state, one of the few in the Plains region without prohibitive ballot laws, requires that 300 petition signatures be filed by Sept. 23.

Ohio (25): On the ballot.

Pennsylvania (27): On the ballot.

Tennessee (3): Three independent electors on the ballot.

Vermont (3): Petitions filed, certification pending.

Virginia (12): On the ballot.

Washington (9): Presidential candidate LaRouche will preside over the Washington State nominating convention Sept. 21, fulfilling the state's ballot requirement of an assemblage of over 100 registered voters who had not voted in the state's primary.

Wisconsin (11): On the ballot.

"Shut-Out" States

The 26 "shut-out" states all have prohibitive requirements, most specifically designed to keep "third parties" and especially communist parties off the ballot. Many states changed their presidential ballot law in 1968 (and 1972) after the American Independent Party got ballot status in all 50 states. There is little legal recourse against the prohibitive signature requirements — often over 20,000 in a few weeks' time — as the Supreme Court upholds requirements of up to 5 per cent of the registered voters of a state. The U.S. Labor Party has proposed setting petition requirements at 500 signatures per electoral vote, with guaranteed nation-wide ballot status if requirements are met in 20 states. At the same time the party is contesting unfair and prohibitive ballot requirements in certain states.