

LaRouche with the documents necessary to file with state officials in order to appear on the ballot in that state's primary.

The incidents cited above, are but a small sample of the way the current U.S. elections are being rigged. This "privatization" of U.S. elections, and the disenfranchisement of so many voters, has produced some of the lowest voter turnouts in the world. Fewer than 50% of eligible voters in the United States vote, and more than 70% have expressed their distrust of the electoral process. In addition, 1 in 50 U.S. adults is prevented from voting, under laws that disenfranchise people who have previous criminal convictions. A disproportionate number of those with criminal convictions are black, thus, nearly 13% of African-American males—nearly 1.4 million people—can't even vote.

It is precisely these disenfranchised, forgotten people, the coalition of minorities, labor, farmers, scientists, and senior citizens, who formed the base of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Democratic Party, who are being galvanized by LaRouche's campaign. That is why the establishment is taking such desperate measures to avoid a fair, free, and open election in the United States of America.

Documentation

Judge orders LaRouche on Tennessee ballot

The following press release was issued by LaRouche's Committee for a New Bretton Woods on Jan. 31.

Election officials in Al Gore's home state were forced to admit this morning, that Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche had filed sufficient valid signatures to qualify for the March 14 Democratic Presidential primary ballot. The admission comes after a month of stonewalling by officials, who refused to put LaRouche on the ballot as a nationally recognized candidate, and then falsely claimed that LaRouche's petition was 406 short of the requisite 2,500 signatures.

Furthermore, even after some election officials began to acknowledge their negligence, the Tennessee Attorney General's office continued to obstruct LaRouche's access to the ballot. The assistant Attorney General assigned to the case made numerous misrepresentations to LaRouche's attorneys, advised local and state election officials not to cooperate, and otherwise tried to prevent the inevitable placement of LaRouche's name on the Democratic primary ballot. Because of the Attorney General's role in perpetrating this electoral fraud, LaRouche is demanding that the Attorney General be

ordered to pay all costs associated with the case.

Tennessee voters will now have the right to vote for LaRouche even though its Secretary of State Riley Darnell refused to put LaRouche on the ballot as a nationally recognized Presidential candidate, relying on national news media for his criteria to deny LaRouche ballot status. This fits with the national pattern of disenfranchising American voters by controlling the debate and the choice of candidates. As a result, LaRouche supporters had to petition to get access to the Tennessee ballot. This is now the 21st state which has certified LaRouche's name to appear on the Democratic Presidential primary ballot.

Today's hearing in the Davidson County chancery court was short. After Assistant Attorney General Janet Kleinfelter begrudgingly admitted that LaRouche had enough valid signatures, all that was left to do was to ask Chancellor Carol L. McCoy to order the state to put LaRouche's name on the ballot. A written order will be signed and issued requiring Darnell to notify all Tennessee county election administrators to put LaRouche's name on the ballot.

The state's concession was not easily won. LaRouche campaign volunteers have spent the entire month of January auditing the initial county clerks' verification process, which had reported that LaRouche's petition was 406 signatures short of the required 2,500. LaRouche's campaign filed almost 5,700 petition signatures on Dec. 20, 1999—well in excess of the 2,500 signatures required. When the LaRouche campaign learned on Jan. 11—two days before the official certification of the ballot—that Commissioner of Elections Brook Thompson's office believed LaRouche would not have sufficient valid signatures to qualify, suit was filed. The suit was filed against Darnell, Thompson, and three Election Commissioners in Davidson County (Nashville), Knox County (Knoxville), and Hamilton County (Chattanooga), seeking an injunction from printing the ballot without LaRouche's name on it. When campaign representatives first tried to audit the counties' verification procedures, they were denied access to the voter registration list. The campaign then had to purchase the database of registered voters for these counties to conduct its own audit of the verification process. It was revealed through this effort that hundreds of duly registered voters who had signed the petition were not validated through the clerks' checking.

Today's victory in Gore's backyard is a lesson to those who think they can get away with rigging the election process. Americans, when offered an alternative to the media-directed clown show called the Presidential campaign, readily respond to LaRouche. Unlike the big-bucks campaign of the so-called front-runners, LaRouche offers ideas for dealing with the real economic crisis every American faces, as well as the leadership to deal with the cascading regional wars now unleashed across the globe. As his ideas do get out to the public, hundreds of people are stepping up to volunteer and to help change the way things are.