
New York, Tennessee

LaRouche wins victory for free elections

by Dennis Speed

On Jan. 31, the LaRouche Democratic campaign achieved two victories on behalf of the right of American citizens to vote in free and fair elections, a right presently threatened with extinction. Lyndon LaRouche, despite the best efforts of the Confederate “home-boys” of Al Gore, was placed on the ballot in Gore’s home state of Tennessee. LaRouche was also certified, along with Bradley and Gore, as a candidate for the Democratic nomination in New York, the state with the toughest ballot requirements in the United States.

The victory in Tennessee is particularly poignant, because it was in this state, that the Bostonian, Scottish Rite Freemason, Confederate Gen. Albert Pike, first formed the Ku Klux Klan in 1867 to deny African-Americans the right to vote. In the case of the New York victory, this was the first time that LaRouche had gone unchallenged in his submission of petitions for ballot status in a Presidential campaign. This was in no small measure due to the fact that LaRouche mounted the largest, and most visible street petitioning drive, deploying nearly 300 volunteers, almost all of them working people, from all ethnic backgrounds, who successfully collected 68,000 signatures to place LaRouche’s name on the state ballot, as well as to qualify him for delegates to the Democratic Party Convention, to be held in Los Angeles in August.

Not a single one of these petitioners was paid to gather signatures. There is no other campaign of any candidate who can boast of such a level of commitment, and efficient output, from their base. LaRouche’s admonition, that the most acute civilizational crisis since the 14th century is upon us, and that the United States citizen has the unique responsibility to use the power of his Declaration of Independence and the General Welfare clause of the Constitution to resolve that crisis favorably for the world as a whole, found a particular resonance in New York City, where the base of his support is drawn from almost every country in the world.

International readers not familiar with the campaign being led by LaRouche and his supporters to preserve the 1965 Voting Rights Act—a law which which enfranchised African-Americans in particular, and, by extension, all Americans prevented by discriminatory practices from voting—may not recognize the particular significance of these two victories. Other, no less important ballot access fights are presently under way, particularly in Illinois and Connecticut (whose

electoral laws are even more byzantine than New York’s). Consider, that when Al Gore made a fool of himself, and by implication the United States, in November 1998 at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum meeting in Malaysia, he was insisting on the necessity for Southeast Asian countries to emulate the standards of freedom of thought and expression in the United States. Yet, Presidential candidate LaRouche is forced, in Tennessee, Connecticut, and other states, to fulfill ballot requirements through petitioning that other candidates do not have to meet—because the criterion used by secretaries of the various U.S. states, as to whether one is a legitimate candidate or not, is whether *the media* anoint one with that designation. Not only does LaRouche not seek that pedigree—he disdains it. Clearly, LaRouche’s message—including that the American “virtual economy” is the world’s biggest problem, not the world’s biggest success—is not likely to gain many column inches in the *New York Times* or the *Washington Post*.

Outrageous requirements in New York

While LaRouche was, for the first time, not challenged in his bid to be certified as a candidate, dozens of articles have appeared reporting the raging battle in New York as to whether or not Republican John McCain would be placed on the ballot. There have been only two anemic mentions of LaRouche, one appearing in a December *New York Times* editorial entitled “New York’s Closed Primary.” That editorial made the misleading contention that, in contrast to the Republican Party, “The Democrats have made it easier for candidates’ names to appear on the ballot, requiring a campaign to get only 5,000 valid signatures statewide, as opposed to about 20,000 for the Republicans. But even the lesser requirement is onerous, undemocratic and outdated.”

It is utterly *false* that the Democratic requirement is any easier. While it is true that one may collect only 5,000 signatures to merely *appear* on the ballot, if a candidate wants to have delegates who can represent him at the Democratic Convention—the very purpose of holding a primary—he must *elect a slate of delegates* who must themselves collect another set of signatures on a completely separate petition. There are 31 Congressional Districts in New York State, and the total number of signatures required for qualification for delegate status from the state is over 26,000 *in addition to* the 5,000 Presidential campaign signatures. However, delegates are only legally qualified to “witness” signatures in their own Congressional District!

That is not the end of the story. A campaign not authorized by the Democratic or Republican State Committees must, in effect, assemble a small army of petitioners. Steve Forbes, a multimillionaire, paid, according to his petitioners interviewed, \$12-15 per hour to hire people to collect his signatures. The McCain campaign recognized, as the *New York Times* correctly pointed out, “that a Republican candidate who needs 20,000 valid signatures would probably have to

LaRouche: Join the fight, don't be a spectator!

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. made the remarks excerpted here in a webcast discussion with voters in Delaware on Feb. 1.

. . . From my standpoint, the big problem is that the majority of voters in the United States, and citizens generally, are behaving like the proletariat marching into the Roman Colosseum to watch the lions eat Christians, and they're deciding, who's the front-runner: Shall we bet on the lions, or shall we bet on the Christians? And generally, they vote against the Christians, because they look like losers to them.

So, the problem in the campaign is that voters—and I've watched this behavior—are cheering for what they think are front-runners. It's like cheering for athletes who they don't know personally, in a football game, mass football game. The crowd is cheering. What are they cheering for? Do they know who that bum on the field really is? And then they find he became President because they cheered for him, and they said, how did we get that bum in there in the first place?

The trick today, is to get the average voter, the average citizen, to realize that *they* are not sitting in the grandstand, of a Roman Colosseum; they're sitting *in the arena*, down with the Christians, and the lions are coming on. The trick here, is to get the Americans to flee from their sense of

unreality—probably not a grandstand, maybe a television screen. They're not spectators; they're victims in the field. . . .

Imagine yourself sitting up in the grandstand of the Colosseum, and looking at the lions eating the Christians, and you're wondering which you're going to cheer for. Realize that you're one of the Christians, and when you look at a television set, or you look at some electoral spectacle, or some candidate parading through town, dropping promises which he will not keep, or could not keep, perhaps, in many cases, don't think, "Which is the front-runner?"

Think of yourself: Are you one of those proletarians who is going to sit in the grandstand, you as a Christian, to watch and cheer for the lions who are eating the Christians? And start to think about politics in a more serious way, and get your neighbor to think about politics in a more serious way, since you're obviously more serious about it than most of them are. Get them to see: Stop being a spectator in matters on which your life, and your family's life may depend. Think clearly! What should our nation's policies be? Who represents what those policies must be? Who is qualified to represent those policies?

Don't be stamped by the orchestration of public opinion by mass news media. Don't be stamped by other tricks. Don't be corrupted and turned into a Yahoo by watching sex and bloody violence on your television set. Think of yourself as one of the Christians down in the arena about to be eaten by lions, and think of which way, under those circumstances, you would vote.

collect 40,000." The reason for this, is that not everyone who votes as a Republican or Democrat in New York is *acknowledged* as such. Only those who have voted in party primaries, not those who have voted Democratic or Republican in the general election, are considered by the party to be "members in good standing." A voter may have cast his ballot for every Democratic Presidential candidate since Franklin D. Roosevelt, but, in the eyes of the party apparatus, that does not qualify him to vote in the Democratic primary, and therefore, he cannot sign the petition.

The *Times* continued: "These names must be secured in a month, over the [Christmas] holiday season. Moreover, Republicans [and Democrats] can sign only one petition, so as the party regulars call their established lists of voters for Governor Bush, they automatically shrink the pool of possibilities for Senator McCain or Mr. Forbes." This was an even greater problem for LaRouche, in that the Gore and Bradley campaigns were also collecting petitions, thus seeming to shrink the potential pool even further.

The LaRouche campaign faced even greater obstacles

than the McCain campaign, yet successfully gathered over 68,000 signatures, *more than the Bradley campaign*. Although Gore's campaign filed, according to one of his campaign spokesman, between 90,000 and 100,000 signatures, a cursory examination of his petitions revealed at least one Congressional District in which he could have been disqualified. It was not, however, the LaRouche's campaign's intention to remove people from the ballot, unless provoked. There was, for the first time that LaRouche has run, no such provocation attempted.

The Republican State Committee challenged the signatures of Forbes, as they had done in 1996, as well as those of McCain. (Senator McCain, as of this writing, has been thrown off the ballot in 12 of the 31 districts. He is expected to be reinstated in these districts by Judge Edward R. Korman of the U.S. District Court in Brooklyn.) Forbes was challenged in three Congressional Districts in Long Island. Judge Korman reportedly "expressed astonishment at how election officials on Long Island disqualified Mr. Forbes from the primary. . . . The election officials invalidated more than 2,000 signatures

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on the Forbes petitions . . . because signers and petition gatherers had listed the village where they lived, rather than the town, a rule that Judge Korman deemed ridiculous.”

Fighting back, the Forbes campaign proved in court that the Bush campaign, synonymous with the Republican State Committee—the very body that had challenged the Forbes ballot status—*had forged signatures* in the 16th Congressional District. “The state party acknowledged that its workers in the 16th District had forged scores of signatures—many in the same handwriting, some with the last names written first, as if they had been copied straight from election rolls,” reported the *Times*. “Among the signatures were those of a man stationed overseas in the Army, and an elderly blind woman.”

It should be pointed out, however, that, precisely because the New York law is so arcane and convoluted, any responsible body running such a petitioning drive would automatically disqualify any signatures that were noticed to be defective—as the LaRouche campaign has often had to do when people

made clerical and other mistakes. There is no defensible way that the body that challenged Forbes and McCain could have “unwittingly let slip” such blatant forgeries. In this sense, the New York situation is identical to that attempted against LaRouche in Tennessee, where the Assistant Attorney General simply arbitrarily asserted, without giving any evidence, that the LaRouche campaign was 406 signatures short of the legal requirement for ballot status. \$10,000 and many man-days later, the LaRouche campaign successfully did the job that should have been done by the Tennessee Board of Elections, and proved that the signatures existed.

It should not be misconstrued, however, that McCain has himself closed the door to these corrupt practices. McCain continues to abide by, and support, the outrageous idea, that the media have the right to determine who is a legitimate candidate for the Presidency of the United States. Thus, to this day, he and all the other “front-runner” candidates, refuse to mention LaRouche, or his policies, thus re-enforcing, by omission, fundamental violations of the Voting Rights Act.