

Taking Charge by Protecting and Expanding Petitioning & Ballot Measure Rights



State Projects 2011

Arizona – 6,392,017

- Successfully worked with coalition partners to repeal the state’s residency law for initiative petitions and to defeat several bills aimed at removing protections against the legislature altering voter-approved laws for the third year in a row

California – 37,593,222

- Successfully worked with a broad coalition to fight legislation to ban payment per-signature and force petition circulators to wear a “Yellow Star” badge while collecting signatures
- Successfully worked against a state constitutional amendment that would make certain type of initiatives impossible
- Sponsored a celebration of the 100th birthday of California’s initiative process in October
- Provided an amicus brief in support of allowing electronic signatures in *Ni v. Slocum*

Colorado – 5,029,196

- Worked with a broad transpartisan coalition to defeat legislation that would create a 60% supermajority requirement for citizen amendments, and impose a geographic distribution requirement on citizen-initiated constitutional amendments, but not those referred by the legislature
- Provided expert testimony, advice, research and logistical support to plaintiffs in *Independence Institute v. Gessler*, a challenge to several petition restrictions. A preliminary injunction has been issued against the residency requirement and pay per signature ban
- Provided advice and research and an amicus brief to defendants in *Sampson v. Gessler*, a lawsuit where two petition activists faced losing their homes to pay legal fees to defend against absurd allegations of wrongdoing, even after their measure failed at the ballot
- Sponsored an event in Denver featuring a panel of state and national I&R experts discussing recent attacks on Colorado’s initiative process
- Successfully petitioned Secretary of State to write petition rules to prevent future entrapment of proponents and circulators
- Issued the May 2011 John Lilburne Award to Dr. Thaddeas Tecza for his efforts to protect Colorado’s petition process

Florida – 18,801,310

- Worked with a broad transpartisan coalition to defeat bills that would have banned paying per-signature, restricted who could circulate a petition, placed a record-keeping burden on petition campaigns, and prohibited asking voters to sign petitions while they stood in line at the polls
- Worked with a broad coalition against a bill that cuts signature time in half: the bill passed into law
- Organizing support for the creation of a statewide statutory initiative process

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Massachusetts – 6,547,629

- Worked with a coalition to defeat two constitutional amendments that would have more than doubled signature requirements
- Worked with a coalition of activists to defeat bills that would have banned payment per-signature, forced petition circulators to wear a ‘Yellow Star’ badge while collecting signatures, prohibited any payment for collecting signatures, and capped donations to a petition effort at \$500

Maryland – 5,773,552

- Provided testimony in favor of a bill to end draconian signature validity requirement for the second year in a row
- Provided testimony in favor of legislation protecting petition circulators from harassment and ‘petition blocking’
- Advised local activists in challenging highly restrictive signature validity requirements

Missouri – 5,988,927

- Supporting a state constitutional amendment to protect acts initiated and passed by the voters from being repealed or altered by the state legislature
- Supporting a state statutory initiative to take the “Petition Rights Protection Act” to a vote
- Worked with coalition to defeat several bills (for the fourth year in a row) which sought to limit who may circulate a petition and what they can be paid
- Promoted legislation to protect voters from having their otherwise valid signatures removed from a petition because of mere technical errors

Montana – 999,243

- Worked with state activists to defeat state constitutional amendments that would have doubled the signature requirements for state statutes and constitutional amendments
- Worked with activists against a bill taking away the right of Montanans to set priorities for local law enforcement through petition: the bill passed and was signed into law

Minnesota – 5,303,925

- Advising state activists who are organizing to support the creation of a statewide process for initiative, referendum, and recall

Nebraska – 1,826,341

- Worked successfully with coalition partners to stop several bills aimed at limiting initiative rights and making it harder to qualify measures for the ballot
- Won our lawsuit in federal district court – *Citizens in Charge v. Gale* – challenging the state’s residency requirement
- Worked to assist another lawsuit, *Bernbeck v. Gale*, challenging the pay per signature ban
- Issued the April 2011 John Lilburne Award to Kent Bernbeck for his long-time activism in support of Nebraska’s petition rights

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Nevada – 2,700,551

- Worked with a coalition of activists to prevent the creation of a highly burdensome geographic distribution requirement and lock in an easily manageable requirement
- Issued the February 2011 John Lilburne Award to Linda and Tracy Strickland for their stand against Boulder City, Nevada's attack on a citizen initiative effort
- Issued the June 2011 John Lilburne Award to Janine Hansen for her outstanding dedication to protecting Nevada's citizen initiative rights

New York – 19,378,102

- Issued the July 2011 John Lilburne Award to state Senator Joseph Robach for sponsoring legislation to create a statewide initiative, referendum, and constitutional amendment process. The legislation has passed the Senate, but still is awaiting action in the Assembly

Oklahoma – 3,751,351

- Worked with our in-state network of activists to defeat a constitutional amendment that would have created a burdensome geographic distribution requirement

Pennsylvania – 12,702,379

- Working with advocacy groups to create a grassroots movement in favor of a statewide process of initiative, referendum and constitutional amendment

South Carolina – 4,625,364

- Worked with state activists in support of a bill to create a statewide process of initiative and referendum
- Issued the January 2011 John Lilburne Award to activist Jim Gordon for his efforts to promote petition rights in the state

Utah – 2,763,885

- Worked with coalition against a bill that raised the requirement to qualify a statewide initiative by linking the requirement to the vote for president instead of for governor: the bill passed and a legal challenge has been filed
- Advised state activists on litigation related to 2010 bills reducing the amount of time available to petition

Washington – 6,724,540

- Worked successfully with coalition to defeat several bills restricting initiative rights by raising the fee to file an initiative, restricting petition circulators to one petition at a time, and forcing paid—but not unpaid—petition circulators to register with the state
- Issued the March 2011 John Lilburne Award to state Senators Pam Roach and Don Benton for their effort to defeat a bill requiring petition circulators to register with the state

Wisconsin – 5,686,986

- Our national report on petition fraud was used as the primary evidence in a legal brief filed with the Wisconsin State Government Accountability Board against frivolous allegations of petition fraud concerning several of the legislative recall campaigns