

Ballot Access for Presidential Candidates in 2004

	Electoral		Ref Inst	Privileged	Restricted	Independent	Disqualification	2004
State	Votes	Population	Grade	Parties	Parties	Candidates	Trigger	Candidates
California	55	33,871,648	F	26,500N	1% (153,804N)	1% (153,804N)	<2% ptV/G	4/1
Texas	34	20,851,820	F	D=5000N R=4500N	1% (45,252N)	1% (63,994N)	<2% ptV/G	4/1
New York	31	18,976,457	F	D=5000N R=0N	15,000N	15,000N	<5% ptV/G	4/1
Florida	27	15,982,378	F	0	1% (93,023N)	1% (93,023N)	<5% tot Voters	5/1
Pennsylvania	21	12,281,054	F	2000N	2% (20-25,000N)	2% (20-25,000N)	<2% ptV	6/1
Illinois	21	12,419,293	F	3000-5000N	1% or 25,000N	1% or 25,000N	<5% ptV/G	3/1
Ohio	20	11,353,140	F	1000N/delegate*	1% (32,289N)	5000N	< 20% ptV/G/P	4/0
Michigan	17	9,938,444	F	.05% or 15,000N	1% (30,272N)	1% (30,272N)	<5% ptV/P	4/1
Georgia	15	8,186,453	A	1% (27,742N)	1% (27,742N)	1% (27,742N)	<20% ptV/P or 1% ptV Statewide elec	3/1
N Carolina	15	8,049,313	F	10,000N	2% (100,230N)	2% (100,230N)	<10% ptV/P	3/1
New Jersey	15	8,414,350	B	1000N	800N	800N	10% of V for all members GenAsmbly	6/1
Virginia	13	7,078,515	B+	10,000N	10,000N	10,000N	10% tV either p 2 Elec	4/1
Massachusetts	12	6,349,097	D-	2500N	10,000N	10,000N	< 3% ptV or 1% totV	3/1
Tennessee	11	5,689,283	C+	2500N	n/a	275N	< 5% ptV/G/P	2/1
Washington	11	5,894,121	B	1000N	200N	200N	5% V last Gen Elec	5/1
Indiana	11	6,080,485	F	4,500	2% (30,716N)	2% (30,716N)	not 2 highest ptV/SoS	3/1
Missouri	11	5,595,211	C-	5000N	10,000N	10,000N	<2% in two cons elec	2/1
Wisconsin	10	5,363,675	D+	8000N	2000-4000N	2000-4000N	<10% ptV/G	5/1
Maryland	10	5,296,486	F	3,200	0	1% (27,246N)	not 2 highest ptV/G	3/1
Minnesota	10	4,919,479	D	5% (8,552N)	1% (1710N)	1% (1710N)	< 5% ptV	6/1
Colorado	9	4,301,261	C-	5000N	10,000N	5000N	<5% ptV/P or 1000 rV or 10,000N	6/1
Alabama	9	4,447,100	C-	500N	5000N	5000N	<20% ptV	2/1
Louisiana	9	4,468,976	C	1000N	5000N	5000N	<5% ptV/P or 5% rV	5/1
S Carolina	8	4,012,012	F	n/a	n/a	5% (105,097N)	n/a	4/1
Kentucky	8	4,041,769	B+	5000N	5000N	5000N	10% ptV/G/LG or PO 2% ptV/P	3/1
Oregon	7	3,421,399	F	5000N	n/a	1% (15,282N)	<5% tot Voters	3/0
Arizona	7	5,130,632	F	0	0	3% (66,875N)	< 5% prev total V/G/P	2/1
Oklahoma	7	3,450,654	F	1000N	3% (45,218N)	3% (45,218N)	< 5% ptV/G/P	0/0
Iowa	7	2,926,324	B-	0	1500N	1500N	<2% ptV/G/P	5/1
Connecticut	7	3,405,565	A	D=1%(4300N) R=6300N	1% or 7,500N	1% or 7,500N	<1% ptV/P	4/1
Kansas	6	2,688,418	C	1000N	n/a	5000N	n/a	5/1
Arkansas	6	2,673,400	F	D=1000N/CD R=\$10,000	1000N	3% (46,913N)	< 3% ptV/G/P	3/1
Mississippi	6	2,844,658	B	500N	1000N	1000N	20% ptV/P for primary	4/1
Nevada	5	1,998,257	D+	0	1% (5,015N)	1% (5,015N)	any candidate =< 1%	3/1
W Virginia	5	1,808,344	F	10,000N	2% (36,100N)	2% (36,100N)	<1% ptV/G	3/1
Nebraska	5	1,711,263	C+	100N	2500N	2500N	< 5% ptV statewide	4/1
New Mexico	5	1,819,046	D+	2% (11,972N)	3% (17,958N)	3% (17,958N)	<5% ptV/G	3/1
Utah	5	2,233,169	B	pay fee	1000N	1000N	2% of V for all can US Rep	4/1
Idaho	4	1,293,953	D+	1% (5,016N)	2% (10,032N)	1% (5,016N)	3 or > candidates	4/1
New Hampshire	4	1,235,786	C+	210N	3000N	3000N	5% V any statewide office	1/1
Hawaii	4	1,211,537	C	0	.1% (3,702N)	.1% (3,702N)	not on ballot in one other state	2/0
Maine	4	1,274,923	C+	2000-3000N	4000-6000N	4000-6000N	5% ptV/either 2 p elec	4/1

Sheet1

Rhode Island	4	1,048,319	B+	1000N	1000N	1000N	< 5% ptV	3/1
Deleware	3	783,600	C-	500N	n/a	1% (5,205N)	.05 of 1% trV	6/1
Wyoming	3	483,782	B-	0	2% (1,821N)	2% (1,821N)	<2% ptV/G/SoS/US Rep	2/1
Montana	3	902,195	B	500N	5% (1,489N)	5% (1,489N)	<5% ptV/G either 2 p Elecns	4/1
Alaska	3	626,932	C+	0	1% (2,818N)	1% (2,818N)	<1% ptV/P	3/1
D.C.	3	572,059	B+	1000N	1000N	1000N		3/1
S Dakota	3	754,844	D+	2.5% (8,364N)	1% (3,345N)	1% (3,345N)	2.5% ptV/G	2/1
N Dakota	3	642,200	C	0	4000N	4000N	< 5% ptV/G/P	2/1

Most of the data above compiled from "PRESIDENTIAL BALLOT ACCESS State by State Scorecard"

The Reform Institute rated 17 States with a F or Failing grade for ballot access in their report December 2003.

Nine of 10 states with the most Electoral votes received a failing grade!

"The primary purpose of this report is to cast light on the glaring inequalities and barriers to...discourage candidates."
pg 62

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The Reform Institute used a standard of relative equality, that is, are all parties subject to the same standard no matter how high in absolute terms that standard may be.

Our analysis indicates that access to the ballot is most restricted where it matters most-control of a majority of the electoral votes-284 in 12 states. Among less populous states only Oklahoma, Arkansas and W. V. received 'F'.

We advocate an absolute uniform standard under the 1st Amendment No Restrictions for General Election Ballot Access for Federal Candidates.

We find it implausible that the Oklahoma Legislature has been ignorant of these facts for over thirty years. Federal judicial review seems well justified.

D. Frank Robinson, Chair Emeritus Oklahoma Libertarian Party

N=sigNatues on a petition Party/Indep

%=percentage of registered voters

(1000N)=Ns est required for 2004 ballot

Ns needed is actually 50% to 100% more

p=previous election t=total V=votes cast

G=Governor P=President

SoS=Secretary of State

Disqualification Trigger isused to remove
a 'recognized' party from the ballot.