

OWNING YOUR GOVERNMENT

START IT UP AND DRIVE IT AROUND THE BLOCK

THE FIRST GREEN VALUE: Every human being deserves a say in the decisions that affect their lives; no one should be subject to the will of another. Therefore, we will work to increase public participation at every level of government and to ensure that our public representatives are fully accountable to the people who elect them. We will also work to create new types of political organizations that expand the process of participatory democracy by directly including citizens in the decision-making process.

- **MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVER'S LICENSE — A PRIVILEGE**

Remember being 16 and the unbridled desire to get a license, to drive anything with a motor? The need to drive hooks us because it is tied to our sexuality and the need to express our social roles, to compete for a life partner. We all become pre-occupied with our private lives.

Marriage and children change our need for the license to drive. The driver's license becomes important for practical reasons such as driving to work and to school.

Voter registration can help us control our civil society, but only half of our people register to vote.

- **VOTER REGISTRATION AS A LICENSE — A BASIC CIVIL RIGHT**

A voter ID card gives you much more than an ID. Voter registration gives you a license to be a full citizen, to be an active participant in the whole spectrum of political activities in your community.

Your voice in government was stolen many years ago by the bipartisan two-party system. The theft has occurred imperceptibly over the past one hundred and fifty years. Two political parties have assumed the right to speak for us for a very long time. We allow their corrupt political activity.

THE PROBLEM: No one, especially incumbent career politicians, educates us about everything we can do as citizens to participate in and have a voice in our public life, in our political system.

The power registered voters can have is not taught in high school or college. "Political speech" is always referred to as involvement in the Two-Party System. We are incessantly told that our political speech is in our ability to vote. "To vote is our only political duty." The "Two-Party System," we are told, "puts all decisions on the ballot that we are allowed to make."

Voting is not the complete answer in a bipartisan incumbent monopoly. Indirectly, we can protest and lobby our two corrupt parties with little or no result. Ballot access petitions are a direct way to make political choices. An intentional political mass movement is needed to dethrone a dictatorship.

Voters can take control from incumbent career politicians. Voters can put better choices on every ballot. Voters can learn to use ballot access petitions to have a voice in the political process.

- **BALLOT ACCESS CERTIFICATION — THE CIVICS LESSONS OVERLOOKED IN HIGH SCHOOL**

The problem is there are not enough certified petition circulators to get the needed non-partisan candidates, minor parties, and referendum issues on the ballot. One solution often used is to pay for petition signatures. Paying for petition signatures should be illegal, just as much as buying votes on Election Day. Money commercializes free speech and weakens our non-partisan democratic republic.

What if many thousands of people knew how to circulate ballot access petitions? What if everyone was certified and determined to circulate ballot access petitions? Could we have more ballot choices?

The most productive political activity for non-partisan independents and minor parties between elections is to certify "petition circulators" in sufficient numbers to make ballot access easy under Ohio law. The bipartisan "two-party system" would be forced to accept non-partisan political competition.

With nearly everyone certified thousands of petition circulators could get just a few signatures to put better choices on every ballot. The civics lessons bypassed in high school and college can be learned now.

- **CERTIFIED OHIO PETITION CIRCULATORS — INDEPENDENT VOTERS ALLIANCE (OHIVA)**

Use no-cost IVA materials. (OH petition rules, true-false tests, practice petitions, voter registration forms, and lesson plans.) Become IVA certified. To be a leader, become an IVA instructor.

Contact RICH STEVENSON, Ohio IVA, 513-251-3155, ohioiva@aol.com. *Rev. 12-08-07*

PDF FILES: OHIO PETITION RULES, www.geocities.com/dist1oh/pdf/OHpetitionRules.pdf TEST, .../IVATest.pdf

1ST PRIORITY PROJECT (CERTIFY PETITION CIRCULATORS) <http://www.geocities.com/dist1oh/ohiva/Certify.html>

MANAGE LOCAL IVA WEB PAGES (PARTICIPATE) <http://www.geocities.com/dist1oh/ohiva/YourVoice.html>

OHIVA HOME PAGE LINKS .../dist1oh/ohiva/index2.html MEET THE IVA .../dist1oh/ohiva/MeetTheIVA.html

MODEL OHIVA HOME PAGE www.geocities.com/dist1oh/ohiva MODEL LOCAL HOME PAGE .../dist1oh/uptuyu

OHIVA E-PARTICIPATION FORM (PARTICIPATE) www.geocities.com/dist1oh/ohiva/index3.html