

Perot on his way to candidacy



WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas billionaire Ross Perot appears well on his way to getting on the ballot in all 50 states, with supporters around the nation reporting extraordinary early progress in petition drives.

"It used to be a little groundswell, but now it's a tidal wave," said Clancy Eldredge of Grosse Ile, Mich., who suggests it will take only a month to collect the 25,646 signatures needed there — well before Michigan's July 16 deadline.

"I have been swamped," said Perot organizer David Dingess of Huntington, W.Va. "It's a wildfire," said Alaska coordinator Michele Kubek of Anchorage.

Interviews by The Associated Press with Perot supporters and elections officials and volunteers in all 50 states over the past week show that people are signing petitions in droves to put Perot on the fall ballot as an independent presidential candidate.

Most organizers say they expect to get the needed signatures well in advance of state deadlines.

Since Perot announced last month that he would consider a third-party candidacy if his name were placed on the ballot in every state, more than 1.5 million calls have come in to an 800-number phone bank set up by Perot employees in Dallas

to field inquires and sign up volunteers.

The maverick electronics industry magnate took additional steps last week toward making such a run, filing papers with the Federal Election Commission to set up a campaign committee. He also named a Vietnam War hero as his interim running mate to satisfy requirements in 27 states that independent candidates have a vice presidential running mate.

Perot, who is in Europe until the end of this week, said last week that he didn't think his candidacy "would happen because I thought the process was too complicated. ... But they are making it happen."

"The phone rang all day yesterday" with requests about Perot, said Patsy Casey, a worker in the secretary of state's office in Kentucky. Her remarks were typical of those of other state elections officials.

Perot's prospective candidacy appears to be arousing remarkable interest in all regions of the country.

"We have a movement of the disenfranchised and angry citizens," said Thomas O'Neil, a business consultant who is running Perot's New Jersey petition campaign from his home in Lawrence Township.

"This has been the most incredible groundswell, just ordinary folks, coming out of the woodwork," said Barbara LeBey, a former Georgia state

court judge who's an Atlanta organizer.

Perot needs 27,000 signatures by July 14 to get on Georgia's ballot. Organizers say they will shoot for 60,000 just to be on the safe side.

In New Mexico, the Perot Petition Committee went into business on Monday and by Wednesday, more than 1,000 people had picked up petition forms at the office of Perot organizer Steve Vigil, an Albuquerque dentist. The state's deadline for the required 12,337 signatures is Sept. 8. "We'll have this done a lot sooner than that," Vigil said.

Getting on the ballot in Perot's home state of Texas may prove the most difficult of all 50 states. Backers need 54,000 certified signatures by May 15 — and they can't include anyone who voted in Texas' Super Tuesday primary last month.

One of the easiest may be Louisiana, where Perot can get on the ballot simply by paying a \$500 fee by Sept. 1, which supporters say is what he'll do.

"You have to be blind not to see that people aren't happy with politicians," said Bill Arata of Bogalusa, La., in explaining why he's helping Perot.

And Tennessee backers have already finished their work, becoming the first state to put Perot's name on the ballot early last week.

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Brand: Funding time running out

By Gerrit Koepping
Emerald Reporter

University President Myles Brand told a story of how he overheard two students talking at a local restaurant.

The first student asked the second what he thought of the effect ballot Measure 5 would have on the University. Brand said the second student replied, "I got mine, and I don't care."

The story is symbolic attitudes all over the nation, Brand said in a speech at the Eugene City Club Friday at the Eugene Hilton.

People who got their college degrees through the GI bill and other government programs are now saying they don't want to pay for programs to educate today's young people, Brand said.

The cause, Brand said, is "in Oregon we are moving from shared community values to more individualistic values."

This shift in values and anger at state government resulted in the passage of Measure 5, Brand said.

"I would hope that we could embrace those community values so that we can care for others," Brand said.

Brand encouraged the audience to ask the governor and state legislators for a special session of the Legislature to solve the current budget crisis brought on by Measure 5.

But Brand admitted he was cynical about the chances of that happening.

Time is running out, Brand said, because universities contract with administrators and non-tenured faculty on a year-to-year basis. Unless funding is stabilized by the end of spring, many positions may be cut and many faculty may leave, he said.

"We may go into the next session without any solution,

and that will mean we will have to take a 20 percent cut," he said, adding that the state executive office has already ordered the University to make a

contingency plan for such a reduction.

The result will be devastating

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THE EAGLE BIRD

MAPPING A NEW WEST

Friday, April 10, 12:30-1:30

Charles F. Wilkinson, considered the nation's preeminent public lands scholar, will be signing copies of his newly published book *The Eagle Bird, Mapping a New West* in our General Books Department. He is currently the Moses Lasky Professor of Law at the University of Colorado and specializes in public land, Indian, water, environmental and constitutional law, history and policy. Mr. Wilkinson began his teaching career at the University of Oregon School of Law and is the author of numerous books concerning Indians and natural resource policy and law in the American West. Charles Wilkinson lives in Boulder, Colorado with his wife and four sons.

The Eagle Bird is a startling and elegant portrait of the New West, of the diverse interests and constituencies seeking to define it and the crucial issues confronting it. Charles Wilkinson assesses the battles fought over the region's resources and how the conflict between conservationists and developers, once a black-and-white matter, now enmeshes tourists and sportsmen, local municipalities and public utilities. *The Eagle Bird* articulates an ethic of place with the passion and immediacy of a manifesto.

"*The Eagle Bird* is the best handbook that I know for anyone who wants to know the history of the West and the probable future of the West. Charles Wilkinson knows more than anyone about land law, water law and all the laws that affect Native Americans in the public lands of the States. Knowing so much, and being so reasonable, he almost persuades me that the West has a hopeful future. I would love to believe him. In fact, I think I do."

—Wallace Stegner

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