



LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MINNESOTA

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For Immediate Release

Libertarian Party of Minnesota Announces Intention to Field Candidate in House District 52B Special Election; Decries Governor Walz's Drastic Reduction in Petitioning Window

September 13, 2023, Eagan, Minnesota. Today Libertarian Party of Minnesota (LPMN) Chair Marianne Stebbins announced the party intends to field a candidate in the [House District 52B](#) Special Election.

"We will give voters in Eagan, Mendota Heights and Mendota the opportunity to vote for a candidate running on the principles of liberty," said Stebbins. "Minnesotans deserve better than an ever-growing government and diminishing freedom."

Governor Walz issued a [Writ of Special Election](#) on September 11, arising from the resignation announced by the incumbent officeholder ten days earlier. The writ sets forth the timetable for the election process. The special election will take place December 5.

Continued Stebbins, "What we never expected is for the Governor to literally cut in half the number of days we get, as a minor party, to collect 500 signatures from eligible voters to get our candidate on the ballot. With a stroke of his pen, he decreed the statutory 14-day allocation, which is already egregiously short, will be seven days for this race. It's outrageous."

Under the writ, petitioning may not commence until today, September 13, and the petitions must be submitted by 5 PM next Tuesday, September 19. The Democratic and Republican nominees will be determined 58 days later at their primary elections on November 16th.

Stebbins added, "My question to Governor Walz and to Secretary of State Steve Simon, 'Is your confidence in election administrators so low that 51 days isn't enough time for them to add minor party candidates to the ballot? You expect us to believe they need a full 58 days?'"

"That extra week can make an enormous difference to third party volunteers." Stebbins concluded, "Sadly, we are not surprised by this callous move by the Governor. After signing legislation to raise the threshold for major party status from 5% to 8% of the votes cast for a statewide candidate, he's now moved the goalposts again."

The LPMN expects to formally endorse its candidate for House District 52B on Thursday, September 14.

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