



**PEACE & FREEDOM PARTY  
OF CALIFORNIA**

**State Central Committee**

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April 8, 2015

Hon. Frank Bigelow  
State Capitol, Room 6027  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0005

**Subject:** AB 372 - Elections: write-in candidates – **OPPOSE**

Dear Assembly Member Bigelow,

The Peace and Freedom Party strongly opposes AB 372, which would impose filing fees on write-in candidates who attain one of the top two positions in the November election through their votes in the June primary.

The usual justification for filing fees is to avoid a "crowded ballot." But under the present California Top Two system, which we consider far too restrictive as it is, no more than two candidates may appear on the November ballot for any "voter nominated" office. Cutting this to one for certain offices, because the second or even the first June vote-getter cannot pay the filing fee, would certainly not deal with ballot crowding. But single-candidate elections do contribute to voter apathy and low turnout.

AB 372 is poorly drafted. It does not address procedural issues necessary to make the filing fee requirement work. These include the deadline by which the fee must be paid and provisions for submitting signatures in lieu of filing fees. Even if it were amended to address these issues, however, it would substantially burden candidates for no public purpose.

The effect, if not the intent, of this proposal is to keep poor and working-class candidates off California general election ballots. This is bad policy, an offense against the electorate, and raises constitutional questions as well. The Peace and Freedom Party urges members of the Assembly to vote no on this bill.

If you would like to discuss our position on AB 372 further, please contact me at 916-320-9186 (mobile) or [ctwebervoters@att.net](mailto:ctwebervoters@att.net), or our State Chair, Debra Reiger, at 916-698-8131 (mobile) or [debra.reiger@earthlink.net](mailto:debra.reiger@earthlink.net).

Yours truly,

C. T. Weber  
Legislative Committee Chairperson  
Peace and Freedom Party of California

**cc:** Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting

Hon. Sebastian Ridley-Thomas, Chair

Hon. Shannon L. Grove, Vice-Chair

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