

**Congressman Ron Paul
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.**

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Statement by Congressman Ron Paul

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"Fair ballot access is a very important issue. On the surface, there seem to be substantial differences between Democrats and Republicans, but on the issues of greatest importance, there is little variance. Both parties have come to endorse policies that make America policeman of the world while eroding civil liberties at home, out of control deficit spending and an inflationary monetary policy that places tremendous burden on working families.

"Our laws are stacked against any real third alternative in the two-party monopoly. By and large, candidates must conform to the system or have difficulty even getting on ballots. Americans deserve better, and across the country, people are waking up and working hard to remove unfair barriers. We deserve a system where third parties can compete, and Democrats and Republicans are held to their platforms and rhetoric. I am impressed by the work of The Free and Equal Elections Foundation and commend them for their leadership on this issue.

"Theresa Amato has experienced the unfairness of our system like few others. Her new book "Grand Illusion" is an important contribution that anyone serious about ballot access reform should read. I thank Theresa for sharing her experiences with us and know her book will make a difference.

With resources like "Grand Illusion" and activism from groups like the Free and Equal Elections Foundation, I am optimistic that Americans can come together and reform our election laws. I look forward to watching the progress I hope we can all make together."