

# Peace and Freedom Party of California

## Legislative Committee

April 10, 2017

Assemblymember Jim Cooper  
State Capitol, Room 5158  
Sacramento, CA 95814

re: AB 469 (Cooper)

**Oppose**

Dear Assemblymember Cooper:

I am sending you this letter on behalf of Peace and Freedom Party in opposition to AB 469. This proposed legislation would amend California Election Code section 8106, which certainly needs amending, but in our view AB 469 amends it in a way that makes it more difficult for candidates, especially poor and working class candidates, to participate in the electoral process. This bill reduces the number of days to collect the huge number of signatures in lieu of filing fees, and it eliminates supplemental signatures in lieu of filing fees.

Reducing the period from 55 days to 40 days would reduce the number of possible signatures gathered by approximately 27.3% (if signatures were collected at the same rate over the signature-gathering period). Further, eliminating the possibility of an additional 15 days in which to collect make-up signatures would reduce the number of valid signatures collected by up to approximately 21.4% (if signatures were collected at the same rate over the make-up signature-gathering period). Combining the effects of these two provisions, the number of signatures that could be collected, is greatly reduced.

The proposed changes in time frames and procedures for gathering signatures in lieu may make the verification process easier for election officials, but if this were to be done without making it more difficult for candidates to collect signatures in lieu of filing fees, then the number of signatures required would need to be reduced by well over 40%.

Election Code section 8106 currently requires 10,000 signatures in lieu of filing fees in order for a candidate to qualify for the primary ballot for a statewide office, 3,000 signatures in lieu of filing fees for a U. S. House of Representatives and a State Senate candidate and 1,500 signatures in lieu of filing fees for a State Assembly candidate.

These signature requirements are most likely unconstitutional because they are not reasonable alternatives to California's filing fees as required by the U. S. Supreme Court decision in *Lubin v Panish*. We should encourage and expand participation in our electoral system not restrict it. That should be the direction of any amendments to Section 8106. Peace and Freedom Party of California has a long history of trying to make our electoral system more democratic, accessible and transparent.

For these and other reasons Peace and Freedom Party stands opposed to AB 469. If you have any questions regarding this bill you may contact me at (916) 422-5395 or [CTWeberVoters@att.net](mailto:CTWeberVoters@att.net), or our State Chair, Kevin Akin at (951) or kevinakin1950@

Sincerely,

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

cc:

Evan Low, Chair  
Marc Berman  
Ian Caldron  
Jordan Cunningham  
Matthew Harper  
Kevin Mullin  
Shirley Weber