

## Statement by the Prohibition Party on the Results of the 2020 Election

Greetings,

We are here on the day after election day. Many millions of people have cast their votes to express their will and to select the people who will serve the public in many elected offices. It will take some time before the full results of the election will be completed. It is important that people respect the processes of our democratic republic and that we have a full and accurate account of the results of the election.

In this election, we had Phillip A. Collins run as our candidate for president. We thank him for his willingness to run for office and to help carry forward the torch of our party on the national stage. We also thank his running mate, Billy Joe Parker, for his service and contributions to the campaign.

We thank all those people who helped with our campaign, whether that be by organizing, helping with ballot access efforts, donating to our campaign, or spreading the word about our campaign. And we thank all those people who voted for Phil Collins in the presidential election. Together we helped to send a message to the nation: a message in favor of protecting the lives and wellbeing of people, of ethical public service, and building a better future for the American People.

As our party's 1884 presidential candidate John St. John stated, "Some people say our party, that it has not got money nor uniforms nor 80,000 torchbearers. Very True. But we are lighting a torch that will burn forever... People say: 'oh we don't want to throw away our vote.' Let me tell you that no vote cast for principle ever was thrown away."

While the full and official vote totals have not been completed, the four states that where Phil Collins was on the ballot have reported most of their unofficial results. Currently, we have a reported total of 4,597 votes: 2,784 from Arkansas, 1,146 from Mississippi, 538 from Colorado, and 129 from Vermont. As it stands, 98% of the unofficial vote total of Arkansas has been reported, along with 95% of Vermont, 95% of Colorado, and 84% of Mississippi. We can expect that we may get more votes from these states once the full total is reported. In addition, we have not yet received the numbers for the votes for Phil Collins in states and counties where he had write-in status. We will work to ensure that all votes for Phil Collins are counted and we will report the full total once the election results are completed.

From the results that have currently been reported, it seems that our vote total might be a bit below the over 5,600 votes that we received in the 2016 presidential election. Even that proves to be the case, we should understand our results within the context of this election, and see the reasons why we can be proud of our performance.

This election has been a challenging one for third parties. The novel coronavirus outbreak and social distancing made it difficult for parties to gather the (often large) number of petition signatures required to get on the ballot in various states. While some states made accommodations to ease the petition requirements, various states did not or only gave accommodations to the candidates of major parties. For our party, these factors undermined our efforts to get on the ballot in states such as Louisiana and Tennessee. Still, we were able to increase the number of states we were on the ballot from 3 to 4 and were able to get on the ballot in Guam's presidential straw poll for the first time.

The Democratic and Republican parties have been ramping up hyper-partisan tensions, and have sought to use fear of the other party to try to pressure people into voting for them. Both major parties have sought to stir up antagonism against third parties and those who would consider voting for them. Democratic and Republican messengers have falsely accused third party candidates of “stealing votes”, when in reality votes belong to voters, who are free to choose who they wish to vote for, and they are trying to cast blame on third parties for their own party’s failure to convince enough voters to support their candidates.

In 2016, roughly 6% of voters cast their votes for a presidential candidate other than the Democratic and Republican candidates. The current unofficial results indicate that less than two percent of voters voted for third party presidential candidates this year. Parties such as the Libertarian Party and the Green Party have received only a fraction of the votes that they received in 2016.

When looking at the results in context, we have done relatively well. So far, the reported results show us with over 81% of our 2016 results. Our decrease in overall results has come from not getting as many votes in Arkansas as we did in 2016. In Arkansas, there was a significant decrease in the percentage of people voting for third party candidates, comparable to the average decrease nationwide. We also had the additional complicating factor of C.L. Gammon. Previously, our party’s presidential ticket was C.L. Gammon for president and Phil Collins for president. The party had sent a petition to get the ticket on the Ballot in Arkansas, before Gammon had to withdraw due to health problems, and Phil Collins became the party’s presidential candidate. The state of Arkansas for some reason kept the Gammon/Collins ticket on the ballot as an independent ballot line, even though Gammon was no longer running. As a result, the Gammon Collins ticket has received 1,459 votes in Arkansas. Added together, Collins received a reported 4,243 votes for either president or vice-president in Arkansas.

In every other state we were on the ballot, we received more votes than we did in 2016. In Mississippi, we received over 1,000 votes. Thus, we have two states where we received over 1,000 votes, as compared to one in 2016. In Colorado, we have received over twice the number of votes. In Vermont, the over 100 votes we received exceeded expectations for the state. In spite of the challenges faced, we still did relatively well and got our second-highest vote result of the 21st century.

With the votes for the 2020 election cast, the Prohibition Party will continue to move forward in order efforts to build up our party and to be engaged in the issues affecting our country. In the years going forward, we have a great opportunity to build up our party on the grassroots level and to lay the groundwork for 2024. In the years going forward, we can look towards expanding our messaging, recruiting new members, helping members be more engaged both in party efforts and their communities, improving fundraising, building up state and local level party organization, and running candidates for state and local offices. We will continue to advocate for good governance, community, social reform, the protection of life against selfishness and greed, and the advancing the public welfare. We will carry forward a light that will grow brighter.