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## Elections

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## ELECTIONS

*Rainbow Coalition of Oklahoma v. Oklahoma State Election Board*, 844 F.2d 740

The Rainbow Coalition, Libertarian, and Populist Parties of Oklahoma contended they were denied equal protection under the law by a state statute governing the process by which a minority party becomes recognized and thus able to place party candidates on the ballot. The district court awarded summary judgment to the Board.

The court of appeals affirmed the district court judgment. It held that election laws restricting ballot access to candidates who file petitions containing signatures equal to five percent of the voters in the last election are proper and have been upheld in the past. Furthermore, the court ruled that the May 31st filing deadline which Oklahoma had established was proper since the Supreme Court has held that a filing deadline in the second week of June is constitutional, even when it operated in a scheme requiring more signatures than required in Oklahoma. Finally, the court found that since Oklahoma had only three counties with computerized voter rolls, requiring it to identify minority parties on the ballot would present a substantial burden for the state and was therefore not allowable.

