ORIGINAL

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT PROCEEDINGS BEFORE

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

DKT/CASE NO. 81-1635

TITLE JOHN B. ANDERSON ET AL., Petitioners v. ANTHONY J. CELEBREZZE, JR., SECRETARY OF THE STATE OF OHIO

PLACE Washington, D.C.

DATE December 6, 1982

PAGES 1 thru 52



(202) 628-9300440 FIRST STREET, N.W.

1	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
2	x
3	JOHN B. ANDERSON ET AL., :
4	Petitioners, :
5	v. : No. 81-1635
6	ANTHONY J. CELEBREZZE, JR.,
7	SECRETARY OF THE STATE OF OHIO :
8	
9	Washington, D.C.
10	Monday, December 6, 1982
11	The above-entitled matter came on for oral
12	argument before the Supreme Court of the United States
13	at 10:03 o'clock a.m.
14	APPEARANCES:
15	GEORGE T. FRAMPTON, JR., ESQ., Washington, D.C.; on
16	behalf of the Petitioners.
17	JOEL S. TAYLOR, ESQ., General Counsel, Office of the
18	Attorney General, Columbus, Ohio; on behalf of the
19	Respondent.
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PROCEEDINGS

- 2 CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: We will hear arguments
- 3 first this morning in Anderson against Celebrezze.
- 4 Mr. Frampton, you may proceed whenever you are
- 5 ready.
- 6 CRAL ARGUMENT OF GEORGE T. FRAMPTON, JR., ESQ.,
- 7 ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS
- 8 MR. FRAMPTON: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
- 9 please the Court, this case involves the
- 10 constitutionality of Chio's early filing deadline for
- 11 independent candidates as that provision is applied to
- 12 independent Presidential candidates.
- 13 The statute requires all independent
- 14 candidates seeking ballot access in November to file a
- 15 declaration of candidacy and 5,000 petition signatures
- 16 of Ohio registered voters at least 75 days before Ohio's
- 17 early June primary, which in 1980 was March 20th.
- 18 Primary partisan candidates seeking to run in the
- 19 primaries, party primaries, also must file by this same
- 20 date, but partisan Presidential candidates need not file
- 21 for or run in Ohio's Presidential primaries in order to
- 22 get on the ballot in November.
- 23 Under Ohio law, both minor party and major
- 24 party candidates, if selected by their parties some time
- 25 before late August, will appear on Ohio's ballot

- 1 regardless of whether those candidates were declared
- 2 candidates in March or April or May, regardless of
- 3 whether they ran in Ohio's primary or any other primary,
- 4 regardless of whether they came into Ohio or did
- 5 anything in Ohio prior to August.
- 6 Now, in the winter and spring of 1980,
- 7 Congressman John Anderson was a Republican candidate for
- 8 the nomination of the Republican Party as President of
- 9 the United States. When it became clear that his
- 10 support was coming not so much from Republican Party
- 11 regulars as from more or less equally Republicans,
- 12 Democrats, and independents, on April 24, 1980, he
- 13 announced that he was abandoning his Fepublican quest
- 14 and would seek to become an independent candidate
- 15 nationwide.
- 16 QUESTION: This was about 30 days or so after
- 17 the filing deadline?
- 18 MR. FRAMPTON: That's correct, Mr. Chief
- 19 Justice.
- That same day, April 24, he also notified the
- 21 Respondent in this case, the Secretary of State, that he
- 22 was timely withdrawing from the Republican primary in
- 23 Ohio, in which he was entered, and the state has
- 24 stipulated and conceded from the beginning of this
- 25 lawsuit that Anderson's timely withdrawal from the

- 1 Republican primary in Ohio means that he was not barred
- 2 from getting on the general election ballot by Chio's
- 3 so-called sore loser statute.
- 4 QUESTION: Do you think it makes any
- 5 difference that he had filed once under a party
- 6 designation and then sought to file later as a third
- 7 party candidate?
- 8 MR. FRAMPTON: In this case, Mr. Chief
- 9 Justice, I don't think it makes any difference, because
- 10 the Ohio legislature has already made a judgment about
- 11 Whether that would disqualify a person in Mr. Anderson's
- 12 position from getting on the general election ballot.
- 13 That judgment is reflected in its sore loser statute,
- 14 3513.04, which provides in substance that someone who
- 15 loses the primary, party primary, cannot thereafter run
- 16 as an independent, and in a specific withdrawal statute
- 17 providing -- that applies specifically to Presidential
- 18 primary candidates, that holds that a Presidential
- 19 candidate who withdraws from a Presidential primary is
- 20 entitled to do that within 30 days of the party primary,
- 21 which would be early May, and the state has stipulated
- 22 that by virtue of that timely withdrawal, the sore loser
- 23 ban didn't apply to him.
- 24 After this notification on April --
- 25 QUESTION: Yes, but that person would have had

- 1 to have filed or made his intentions to run in the
- 2 primary known before his withdrawal. He couldn't
- 3 withdraw if he wasn't running.
- 4 MR. FRAMPTON: That's correct, Justice White.
- I think the point is that the sore loser
- 6 statute, that is, the statute that directs itself to the
- 7 question of whether a candidate has previously sought to
- 8 gain the party nomination is -- expresses a very
- 9 different state interest than the filing deadline, and
- 10 the filing deadline is a much more burdensome provision,
- 11 because it bars all independent candidates and all
- 12 independent-minded voters after March 20 from putting
- 13 forward an independent candidate, whereas the sore loser
- 14 provision applies only to individual candidates, and
- 15 doesn't bar the voters from putting forward another
- 16 independent until some time very late in the summer.
- 17 QUESTION: Mr. Frampton, exactly what is the
- 18 First Amendment right being asserted here?
- 19 MR. FRAMPTON: Justice --
- 20 QUESTION: How would you articulate it?
- 21 MR. FRAMPTON: Justice O'Connor, I think it is
- 22 directly the First Amendment right of the -- principally
- 23 being asserted in this case is the right of the voters
- 24 and citizens, including those petitioners who are Ohio
- 25 registered voters who are seeking to support Congressman

- 1 Anderson by putting forward his name and having him on
- 2 the ballot, their right to associate for the purpose of
- 3 putting their candidate before whatever body the state
- 4 designates to select its electors in November.
- 5 And in addition, I think what this Court has
- 6 recognized in many cases as an intertwined but somewhat
- 7 separate right to vote which is not found as such in the
- 8 Constitution, but I think this Court has recognized is
- 9 fundamental to the democratic process, and is important
- 10 if any of the rights in the Constitution --
- 11 QUESTION: Does Ohio permit write-in
- 12 candidates?
- MR. FRAMPTON: Yes, it does, and there is a
- 14 specific provision in the Ohio code for Presidential
- 15 candidates. You can qualify as a write-in candidate if,
- 16 prior to, I believe it is 40 days prior to the general
- 17 election, you file a slate of electors with state
- 18 officials.
- 19 QUESTION: Well, then, how is the right to
- 20 vote infringed?
- 21 MR. FRAMPTON: Justice O'Connor, I think the
- 22 Court has recognized in the past, for example, in Lubin
- 23 and Panish, that the write-in -- and in Williams and
- 24 Rhodes, that the write-in alternative is not an
- 25 equivalent, a practical equivalent either for voters or

- 1 for candidates to having a candidate's name on the
- 2 ballot, and I would contend that that is particularly so
- 3 for someone seeking as important an office as President
- 4 of the United States.
- 5 I think the reason for that is that the
- 6 write-in alternative and the ballot access alternative
- 7 serve very different purposes. The state is saying to a
- 8 candidate and to his or her supporters, if you can
- 9 demonstrate substantial community support, you are
- 10 entitled to have your name printed on the ballot.
- 11 Perhaps the major party candidates get some ballot
- 12 preference, but the independent's or third party
- 13 candidate's name will be on the ballot.
- 14 The state is also saying by the write-in
- 15 alternative, we are not going to totally bar everyone
- 16 else. In other words, regardless of whether you have
- 17 any community support, we will allow people to write
- 18 your name in if you simply go through some
- 19 administrative -- jump through some administrative hoops
- 20 near to the election.
- 21 So they are two very different things.
- 22 QUESTION: Well, you are not relying really on
- 23 some right to be a candidate, then.
- MR. FRAMPTON: Justice O'Connor, I think we
- 25 are certainly asserting the right of Petitioner John

- 1 Anderson to be on the ballot and to represent these
- 2 people. His rights --
- 3 QUESTION: Do you think that Clements versus
- 4 Fashing bears on that, where the Court indicated there
- 5 wasn't such a right?
- 6 MR. FRAMPTON: Justice O'Connor, I think the
- 7 Court treated that case as principally a case asserting
- 8 the candidate's rights, and although we do have a
- 9 candidate here asserting his rights, I think that the
- 10 principal rights being asserted here are those of the
- 11 other petitioners and voters and citizens like them.
- 12 QUESTION: Well, if we have said there isn't a
- 13 right under the First Amendment to be a candidate, then
- 14 can the voters have some right that hinges on some right
- 15 to be a candidate?
- 16 MR. FRAMPTON: I think it does, but I think
- 17 the voters also have an independent right. The voters'
- 18 rights that are being infringed here are the rights of
- 19 independents and other voters to have the opportunity
- 20 during this five-month period when party supporters have
- 21 an opportunity to react to political events and other
- 22 candidates' choices, and in late August to be able to
- 23 choose that candidate who is going to have the best
- 24 chance to win.
- 25 It is the discrimination between the rights of

- 1 those voters to put forward a candidate, the party and
- 2 the independents. Now, the state says that is really
- 3 very theoretical, but I think that you can take any of
- 4 the examples that we have cited in our brief from
- 5 political history and demonstrate that the same thing
- 6 could happen in 1984, that would discriminate against
- 7 the independent voters.
- 8 For example, in 1968, Lyndon Johnson shocked
- 9 the country by announcing in late March that he was not
- 10 going to run for re-election, and indeed his principal
- 11 opponent at that time, Senator Robert Kennedy, who had
- 12 only declared two weeks earlier, was assassinated in
- 13 early June. Those events totally changed the political
- 14 calculus.
- Now, given our present economic situation and
- 16 the age of our incumbent President, it would be no more
- 17 shocking if President Reagan were to announce on April
- 18 24, 1984, that he had decided not to run for
- 19 re-election. If that happened, party voters and party
- 20' supporters would have months to react and still choose
- 21 in late August the best candidate based on that set of
- 22 political circumstances, but what about voters who
- 23 elected President Reagan in 1980 because of, say, his
- 24 views on supply side economics, his conservative
- 25 political ideology?

- Those people who assumed on March 20, 1984,
- 2 that their interests would be represented in the general
- 3 election, because they would vote for President Reagan
- 4 for re-election, now, if the Republican Party were not
- 5 going to nominate someone who met their political views,
- 6 they would be forever frozen.
- 7 QUESTION: Well, what business would those
- 8 people have for assuming in your hypothetical situation
- 9 that President Reagan would run again. If he simply had
- 10 remained silent, and there had been no party
- 11 conventions. Those are the ones that nominate. They
- 12 are simply waiting like everybody else to see what
- 13 happens.
- 14 MR. FRAMPTON: I think that is precisely the
- 15 point that we are trying to make in our case. They have
- 16 no right to assume that. It is not possible to tell
- 17 prior to early summer in many election years who the
- 18 most likely candidates are going to be. Therefore,
- 19 there is no meaningful or realistic incentive for voters
- 20 to organize behind an independent candidate very early
- 21 in the year and find somebody who is going to expend the
- 22 necessary energy to go out there in January and February
- 23 and March with volunteers in 50 states and get on the
- 24 ballot.
- 25 QUESTION: Yes, but the logic of your position

- 1 suggests that if the major party conventions were held
- 2 in late August and September, and the candidates
- 3 nominated only then, and although that isn't the
- 4 tradition, there is certainly nothing in the law that
- 5 prevents it, your people would still have a right after
- 6 that happens, however late or however few days left
- 7 before election, your people would still have a right to
- 8 act after the major parties in order to put their
- 9 candidate up, and I don't see where you get that out of
- 10 our cases.
- MR. FRAMPTON: Justice Rehnquist, I don't
- 12 think that is at all the necessary logic of our
- 13 position. Our position is only that the state should
- 14 not be permitted to very substantially burden and
- 15 discriminate against independents by making them gualify
- 16 much earlier than the party candidates absent some state
- 17 interest that the legislature, state legislature has
- 18 considered and made a determined judgment it is really
- 19 necessary to impose this burden.
- 20 For example, administrative interests of the
- 21 state of Ohio on the face of its statute might well
- 22 sustain a filing deadline here in early June, several
- 23 months in advance of the party conventions, and indeed
- 24 this Court has sustained mid-June deadlines.
- 25 So we are not arguing that independents have

- 1 to be given the right to come after the party
- 2 selections. What we are saying is that when you have a
- 3 process that lasts, let's say, from January to August,
- 4 throughout the country, in 50 states, in which the
- 5 voters, party and independent voters, are engaged in
- 6 selecting the nominees to appear on the ballot, one
- 7 state should not be permitted discriminatorily to say to
- 8 independents alone that if you don't get into the race
- 9 at the beginning of this process, you are not going to
- 10 be able to get in at all.
- 11 I would like to point out that the court of
- 12 appeals here which reversed the district court appears
- 13 to have held that a very lenient standard of review is
- 14 appropriate. Although it is our position that the
- 15 decisions of this Court mandate strict scrutiny in this
- 16 case, we think that even with the most lenient standard
- 17 of review, that the statute doesn't pass constitutional
- 18 muster.
- QUESTION: Well, in that regard, Mr. Frampton,
- 20 are you suggesting that without regard to how this
- 21 statute was applied to Mr. Anderson and his supporters,
- 22 the statute is unconstitutional on its face? Is that
- 23 your position?
- MR. FRAMPTON: It is our position that it is
- 25 unconstitutional on its face as applied to the

- 1 Presidential race.
- 2 QUESTION: Well, how about as it is applied to
- 3 Congressman Anderson, in the particular circumstances of
- 4 his case, and if you say that -- if you -- let's just
- 5 assume that as applied in this case, it was
- 6 constitutionally applied. Just assume that. I take it
- 7 your position is nevertheless the statute should be
- 8 declared unconstitutional on its face because it might
- 9 be applied unconstitutionally in other circumstances.
- 10 MR. FRAMPTON: The assumption that the statute
- 11 -- that -- the assumption would be that Congressman
- 12 Anderson could constitutionally be barred from Ohio's
- 13 general election.
- 14 QUESTION: Yes, yes, the very case that the
- 15 statute was not unconstitutionally applied to him.
- 16 Assume that.
- 17 MR. FRAMPTON: But it seems -- sorry. It
- 18 seems to me that assumption would be that the state
- 19 could have passed some other law, such as a
- 20 disaffiliation provision, that would have barred it.
- QUESTION: Well, that may be so, but what
- 22 about this law? It would nevertheless be
- 23 unconstitutional on its face?
- MR. FRAMPTON: Well, our position, I think,
- 25 then -- my answer has to be twofold. One, this isn't a

- 1 disaffiliation provision. It is not a political
- 2 stability device. And second, that the state isn't
- 3 entitled to make it into something that it isn't. And
- 4 then, third, that --
- 5 QUESTION: Yes, but why would you -- why would
- 6 you -- why would you think you were entitled to have it
- 7 declared unconstitutional on its face, just because it
- 8 might be applied to others in an unconstitutional way?
- 9 MR. FRAMPTON: Well, I don't -- Mr. Justice, I
- 10 don't think that is the real thrust of the Court's
- 11 overbreadth opinions --
- 12 QUESTION: Well, I want to know what the
- 13 thrust of your position is.
- MR. FRAMPTON: If Congressman Anderson, for
- 15 example, were contesting -- had been faced with an
- 16 850,000 petition signature requirement in June, which he
- 17 had challenged because he couldn't get the correct
- 18 number of signatures, I don't think that it would be
- 19 right to say that he wasn't entitled to challenge that
- 20 requirement because the state could have barred him with
- 21 some kind of political stability device --
- 22 QUESTION: I still -- I still want to know
- 23 whether we should judge this case -- we should ask
- 24 ourselves whether this statute was constitutionally
- 25 applied to Anderson in the circumstances of this case,

- 1 or whether we must also ask, well, that is sort of
- 2 irrelevant, is the statute unconstitutional on its face,
- 3 because it is overbroad, or because of something else.
- 4 MR. FRAMPTON: That is correct. Our position
- 5 has always been that it has to be considered in terms of
- 6 its impact on its face --
- 7 QUESTION: Well, not if the test is just mere
- 8 rationality. And you seem to -- I know you say it is
- 9 strict scrutiny, but --
- 10 MR. FRAMPTON: Well, our position is that even
- 11 if a rational relationship test is applied, the statute
- 12 falls, because it isn't -- it doesn't in fact rationally
- 13 further political stability goals. It doesn't, for
- 14 example, prevent a party candidate from running as an
- 15 independent. It doesn't -- the state doesn't prevent by
- 16 the filing deadline or any other provision a person who
- 17 has been a long-time independent from running in a party
- 18 primary, or a party member from running in another
- 19 party's primary, or a candidate from filing as an
- 20 independent in the Presidential race and going on and
- 21 continuing to run as a party candidate in every other
- 22 state in the country. So it doesn't in fact serve any
- 23 of the political stability purposes that this Court
- 24 outlined in upholding a one-year disaffiliation clause
- 25 for state races in Storer.

- So it is just not that kind of device. It
- 2 seems to me that argument has to be premised on the
- 3 state's position that this isn't really a filing
- 4 deadline. It is something other than what it looks
- 5 like. It is a sheep in wolf's clothing, or a wolf in
- 6 sheep's clothing. And our position is, it is not. It
- 7 is just a filing deadline.
- 8 If you look at the legislative history, or how
- 9 the statute operates, or other ways in which you look at
- 10 a statute that looks like one thing which somebody says
- 11 is really something else, all of those show you that it
- 12 isn't something else in disguise, it is just a filing
- 13 deadline. Just a date by which a candidate must
- 14 demonstrate his community support.
- In fact, the legislative history shows here,
- 16 if we have to go to that, that at best the statute is an
- 17 accident. It is something designed for statewide races
- 18 where the state can legitimately say everybody who wants
- 19 to get on the ballot has got to start out at the same
- 20 time, and nobody gave much thought to the fact that in
- 21 the Presidential context it is irrational.
- 22 At worst, it is a leftover part of an
- 23 exclusionary scheme that this Court recognized in
- 24 Williams and Rhodes.
- 25 I think that although a large part of our case

- 1 does turn on discrimination, that we would have an
- 2 equally strong case, and do have an equally strong case
- 3 simply flowing from the burden that the statute imposes
- 4 on independent candidates even absent the
- 5 discrimination. The burden that we argue is tied with
- 6 the discrimination, because it is a burden on the
- 7 competitive exercise of rights.
- 8 You can't just look at 229 days or 209 days.
- 9 You have to look at what independent voters can do
- 10 vis-a-vis what everybody else is permitted to do.
- 11 QUESTION: Mr. Frampton, is there any evidence
- 12 here that indicates how many late blooming third force
- 13 candidates like the Petitioner Anderson have sought and
- 14 been denied access to Ohio's general election ballot?
- 15 MR. FRAMPTON: There is evidence that a number
- 16 of independent Presidential candidates have gotten on
- 17 the ballot, but it is --
- 18 QUESTION: Is there any evidence as to how
- 19 many have been denied access?
- 20 MR. FRAMPTON: No, Your Honor, there is not.
- 21 It is stipulated in the record, I don't remember the
- 22 paragraph of the stipulation, that there was
- 23 insufficient information available from either the state
- 24 government's offices or from any other source that we
- 25 had available in the district court to make a

- 1 determination about that.
- Even if Ohio had a non-discriminatory statute,
- 3 that is, even if we were facing a statute that applied
- 4 equally to --
- 5 QUESTION: When you say discriminatory, it
- 6 does, of course, it treats party people and independents
- 7 differently. Is that what you mean by discrimination?
- 8 MR. FRAMPTON: Yes.
- 9 QUESTION: Just that it -- you are not
- 10 suggesting that just because they are treated
- 11 differently, that the law is unconstitutional?
- MR. FRAMPTON: No, we are suggesting that
- 13 because independent candidates and voters who may wish
- 14 to put forward some candidates are deprived of the
- 15 opportunity during most of the time everybody else
- 16 chooses their nominees from doing the same thing, that
- 17 that is both an invidious discrimination and a burden.
- 18 But even if the difference in treatment -- I
- 19 am sorry -- were absent from the case, I think we'd have
- 20 a strong case. It would be a different case to analyze,
- 21 because then the question would be, in the context of a
- 22 50-state process, where other states, voters in other
- 23 states are choosing the nominees, could Ohio alone take
- 24 the position that no candidate who had not thrown his
- 25 name into the ring as of March 20th was going to get on

- 1 Ohio's ballot regardless of who nominated him.
- Now, I think if you look at it from that
- 3 context, that that would be a very, very substantial
- 4 burden, a substantial interference by Ohio in the
- 5 political process nationwide.
- 6 QUESTION: Of course, I think it is also true
- 7 that the Ohio -- it is inconceivable that the Ohio
- 8 legislature, with Republicans and Democrats making up 98
- 9 percent of it, would pass the statute.
- 10 MR. FRAMPTON: Absolutely. I am quite sure
- 11 that if they did, that I wouldn't be here alone today,
- 12 that the Republican and Democratic Party voters would be
- 13 here urging on you the proposition that this was a
- 14 massive infringement on their rights under Cousins and
- 15 Wigoda, but we all know that the states aren't going to
- 16 do that. They are not going to do it because they are
- 17 not going to buck the power of the two major political
- 18 parties, and all we are saying in this case is, fine,
- 19 but then the states should not be permitted, having made
- 20 that choice, to go ahead and just buck the independents
- 21 Who simply because their supporters have chosen not to
- 22 affiliate with an engoing political institution between
- 23 elections don't have the political organization to go to
- 24 the state legislature and say, don't do this to us.
- 25 QUESTION: But, of course, you -- in a sense,

- 1 you seem to be arguing that independents are a sort of
- 2 political party all their own, and of course if that
- 3 were true, I think there would be no difficulty about
- 4 Ohio saying that if you want the independent nomination,
- 5 you have got to file by a certain date, and the
- 6 independents choose their candidate at the independent
- 7 convention, and such and such.
- 8 But that really isn't what the independent
- 9 is. It isn't a third political party. It is just
- 10 people who don't affiliate with the two major parties,
- 11 and who kind of go in and out from one campaign to the
- 12 next.
- 13 MR. FRAMPTON: Justice Rehnquist, I think I
- 14 have to give a three-part answer to that question. I am
- 15 sorry.
- 16 QUESTION: I didn't realize I was bringing
- 17 that on.
- (General laughter.)
- 19 MR. FRAMPTON: It seems to me that the Court,
- 20 although it is not a separate party, of course, the
- 21 Court has recognized in previous decisions that
- 22 independent-minded voters, those people who for whatever
- 23 reason don't want to affiliate themselves with an
- 24 organized ongoing political faction, do have different
- 25 and independent type of rights that are entitled to the

- 1 same recognition under the First Amendment as party
- 2 members.
- Now, it is true here John Anderson certainly
- 4 was not running as the candidate of an independent
- 5 party. Indeed, his -- the information in the record in
- 6 this case indicates, and the district court found that
- 7 he was an unusual situation. He was drawing support
- 8 from the major parties and from this large group of
- 9 independent-minded voters whose size has increased over
- 10 the last decade or two.
- 11 But I think that their rights, the rights of
- 12 the independent voters, whether they are -- the rights
- 13 of those who want to put forward some alternative to the
- 14 major parties, be they independents or party members,
- 15 are the same if they are barred after March 20 in, for
- 16 example, putting forward a candidate should President
- 17 Reagan withdraw in '84.
- 18 QUESTION: But your argument necessarily
- 19 requires you to say, doesn't it, that even though the
- 20 major parties have their conventions in August, that
- 21 nonetheless if someone like Congressman Anderson wishes
- 22 to announce in September on the basis of choices made by
- 23 the major parties in August, Ohio has got to allow them
- 24 to do it, however it may foul up their balloting.
- MR. FRAMPTON: No, our position still is that

- 1 the burden or difference in treatment, if it is
- 2 substantial, has -- simply saying that it has to be
- 3 supported by some state interest. Now, the state
- 4 obviously -- states obviously do have interests in
- 5 having filing deadlines earlier than the national
- 6 conventions.
- 7 Of course, most states do have filing
- 8 deadlines in September --
- 9 QUESTION: Would a filing deadline in June for
- 10 independents have done away with your constitutional
- 11 objections, do you think? Because the same sort of
- 12 thing that Congressman Anderson relied on in April could
- 13 have occurred as a result of the two major party
- 14 conventions in August.
- 15 MR. FRAMPTON: I think it would be a very
- 16 different case, because Ohio does have legitimate
- 17 administrative interests that might support a June
- 18 deadline. There would still be some burden and some
- 19 difference in treatment, albeit a lesser -- lesser
- 20 degree, and the state would have a real strong state
- 21 interest.
- 22 For example, it is stipulated here that even
- 23 independent Presidential petitions that are filed by
- 24 March 20 sit in somebody's in-box, or hopefully a safe,
- 25 gathering dust for three months, until mid-June. In

- 1 mid-June, the state does begin this process of exposing
- 2 them to public scrutiny, verifying them, and
- 3 entertaining challenges.
- 4 Now, I think if this were a June 12th
- 5 deadline, supported by a facially valid state interest,
- 6 then the only question -- the only kind of challenge we
- 7 could make really was to try to prove as a matter of
- 8 fact that the state really didn't need two and a half
- 9 months. Most states don't. Larger states than Ohio
- 10 don't. But that would be a pretty heavy burden on us.
- 11 CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Very well.
- 12 MR. FRAMPTON: Unless there are any further
- 13 questions, I would like to save the rest of my time.
- 14 CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Mr. Taylor.
- 15 ORAL ARGUMENT OF JOEL S. TAYLOR, ESQ.,
- ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENTS
- 17 MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
- 18 please the Court, the Ohio filing deadline at issue in
- 19 this case has a burden, if it has one at all, of an
- 20 entirely different character than the election
- 21 regulations that have been struck down in the past by
- 22 this Court. It does not result in a prohibition of all
- 23 independent candidacies from the Ohio ballot, nor does
- 24 it make it virtually impossible for third party
- 25 candidacies, as was the case in Williams v. Rhodes, nor

- 1 does this filing deadline result in any class of voters
- 2 being totally prohibited from voting at all, as was the
- 3 case in Dunn against Blumstein, the Tennessee one-year
- 4 residency case, and Kramer against Union Free School
- 5 District, where classes of voters were prohibited from
- 6 voting at all in a particular election.
- 7 The burden of this statute is indeed even less
- 8 than the burden posed by statutes which have been upheld
- 9 by this Court. For example, this filing deadline does
- 10 not require the voter to make up his mind as long as
- 11 eleven months before an election how he wishes to
- 12 participate in that election, as was the case in Posario
- 13 against Rockefeller, in which a party enrollment statute
- 14 in New York was upheld that required enrollment as long
- 15 as eleven months before a primary election.
- Nor does this statute require the candidate to
- 17 make up his mind as to how he wishes to participate in
- 18 an election as long as one year before that election, as
- 19 Was the case in Storer v. Rhodes, in which a one-year
- 20 disaffiliation requirement was upheld.
- 21 Indeed, all this statute requires is that a
- 22 person seeking the office of President, an office for
- 23 which the campaigns frequently begin as long as two
- 24 years before the election, make up his mind seven and a
- 25 half months before that election that he wishes to seek

- 1 the office as an independent candidate. This, I would
- 2 submit, is not much of a burden.
- 3 I would like to stress three areas in my
- 4 argument. Number one, that there is no invidious
- 5 discrimination in this case between independent
- 6 candidates and the candidates of political parties.
- 7 Number two, the statute does not pose a substantial
- 8 burden upon any constitutional rights for the class of
- 9 independent candidates, and therefore strict scrutiny is
- 10 not appropriate. And Number three, it is in fact
- 11 supported by important state interests.
- 12 QUESTION: On your second point, do you say
- 13 the same thing about not only the candidate but about
- 14 his supporters?
- MR. TAYLOR: Yes, I do, Your Honor. Of
- 16 course, any candidate restriction is going to have some
- 17 kind of an effect on voters, and I think --
- 18 QUESTION: I take it your opposition stresses
- 19 the associational right rather than the candidate's
- 20 right.
- 21 MR. TAYLOR: Right. The -- Any restriction on
- 22 a candidacy is going to have an effect on voters to the
- 23 extent that if the candidate does not comply with that
- 24 restriction, whatever it is, then his supporters will
- 25 have one less candidate available to vote for. In other

- 1 words, any candidate restriction is going to narrow the
- 2 field to some extent that the voter has available to him.
- 3 The Court has never held that that simple
- 4 narrowing of the field all by itself is enough to
- 5 establish an infringement of rights. Indeed, in Bullock
- 6 v. Carter which -- in which the issue was discussed
- 7 extensively, the Court in that case relied upon a
- 8 factual determination that indeed many, many candidates
- 9 had been kept off the ballot by the high filing fees in
- 10 the state of Texas that were not sustained in that case.
- 11 QUESTION: Well, then, you do recognize that
- 12 there is a right of political association that may be
- 13 affected, but you are just saying it isn't much of an
- 14 effect.
- 15 MR. TAYLOR: That's correct, Justice
- 16 O'Connor. Our position --
- 17 QUESTION: So there is some First Amendment
- 18 right here at stake which you would recognize,
- 19 apparently, as well.
- 20 MR. TAYLOR: There is no question but that the
- 21 Court in voting rights and candidate cases has
- 22 recognized the implication for First and Fourteenth
- 23 Amendment rights of any regulation. The simple fact,
- 24 though, that the regulation may affect such rights does
- 25 not, I would submit, result in an immediate leap to the

- 1 conclusion that the regulation must be justified by a
- 2 compelling state interest.
- 3 QUESTION: Well, there may be a threshold
- 4 inquiry of whether it is an undue burden or something of
- 5 that kind.
- 6 MR. TAYLOR: Indeed, I think that is the case,
- 7 Justice O'Connor, and in several cases the Court has
- 8 done exactly that. In Mandel against Bradley, for
- 9 example, in Storer v. Brown, both of which involved a
- 10 numerical petition requirement, in both cases there was
- 11 actually a remand made to the lower courts for the
- 12 express purpose of determining as a factual matter
- 13 whether that regulation was indeed burdensome.
- 14 QUESTION: Does any other state have a filing
- 15 deadline as early as Ohio's?
- 16 MR. TAYLOR: One state currently has a filing
- 17 deadline earlier than Chio.
- 18 QUESTION: What is that?
- 19 MR. TAYLOR: I believe that is Indiana.
- 20 QUESTION: Indiana?
- 21 MR. TAYLOR: New Jersey, I believe, has one in
- 22 April, and there were, of course, at one time filing
- 23 deadlines in four other states at or about the same time
- 24 as Ohio's that were struck down as a result of Anderson
- 25 litigation in other cases. So that it would appear that

- 1 at least seven states are desirous of having a filing
- 2 deadline at or about this time. There are, of course,
- 3 many other filing deadlines in June and July that would
- 4 come much earlier than the second of the two national
- 5 conventions.
- And I think indeed that Petitioners' position
- 7 does -- would in fact require, if sustained, the
- 8 invalidating of filing deadlines that came in advance of
- 9 the national conventions, because as I understand his
- 10 argument, it is clearly that the voters have a right to
- 11 coalesce around an independent candidate after the
- 12 issues have been determined at the convention, and after
- 13 the identities of the major parties' nominees are known.
- So that I think the impact of this case would
- 15 be much, much broader than simply a filing deadline that
- 16 occurs in the spring.
- 17 Turning to the question of whether there is
- 18 invidious discrimination in this case, the Petitioner
- 19 argues that the discrimination to exist simply because
- 20 the independent candidate must file his petitions in
- 21 March, whereas the political parties remain free to
- 22 select their nominee up until as late as the conventions
- 23 in August.
- 24 There is a fundamental fallacy in making this
- 25 argument. There is an assumption that is not merited

- 1 that it is possible to compare political -- it is
- 2 possible to compare the candidates seeking the
- 3 nomination of a political party with independent
- 4 candidates. In Ohio, there are two entities that have a
- 5 right of access to the ballot, set by Chio Revised Code
- 6 Section 3505.10.
- 7 One of those is a political party. The other
- 8 is the independent candidate. It is not the person
- 9 seeking the political party nomination that has that
- 10 right of access to the ballot. It is the party that has
- 11 that right of access. And both the independent
- 12 candidate and the political party must take steps no
- 13 later than March to qualify for the ballot. In the case
- 14 of the political party, it qualifies either by
- 15 attracting a certain level of support in the preceding
- 16 election or by submitting petitions with the signatures
- 17 of 1 percent of the people who voted in the last
- 18 election. In the case of the independent candidate, he
- 19 qualifies simply by submitting the nominating petition.
- 20 At that point in time, in March, then, when
- 21 both those entities have qualified, the only
- 22 difference --
- 23 QUESTION: When you say both those entities,
- 24 Mr. Taylor, what do you mean?
- MR. TAYLOR: The two entities being the

- 1 independent candidate and the political party.
- QUESTION: I suppose -- are there customarily
- 3 more than two political party candidates for President
- 4 on the ballot in Ohio?
- 5 MR. TAYLOR: There -- I believe the last time
- 6 we had a third party on the Presidential ballot was in
- 7 1972. We have had, however, five independent candidates
- 8 for President on the ballot in both 1976 and 1980.
- 9 QUESTION: Mr. Taylor, it is still not clear
- 10 to me what the Petitioner in this case could have done
- in March and complied with your law. Could he have said
- 12 that I am a candidate on the Republican convention, and
- 13 if I don't make that, I want to be an independent?
- MR. TAYLOR: No, he could not, Justice
- 15 Marshall. He had to make his election in March as to
- 16 which of the two routes he wished to take to the
- 17 ballot.
- 18 QUESTION: Which would deny him the right to
- 19 run in the convention. Right?
- 20 MR. TAYLOR: I don't believe he is denied any
- 21 right to run in the convention. He is simply asked to
- 22 make an election.
- 23 QUESTION: Well, isn't the state of Ohio
- 24 telling him that he can't run in the convention?
- 25 MR. TAYLOR: The state of Ohio is not telling

- 1 him -- There was nothing in this case to prevent
- 2 Congressman Anderson from having obtained the nomination
- 3 of the Republican Party at its convention, had he been
- 4 able to do so.
- 5 QUESTION: Even after he had -- Even after he
- 6 had taken these other steps?
- 7 MR. TAYLOR: That's correct. I mean, the
- 8 person who is put on the ballot as the candidate of the
- 9 political party is whoever that political party
- 10 selects.
- 11 QUESTION: Can you imagine a political party
- 12 nominating a man that is an independent candidate in 50
- 13 states?
- 14 MR. TAYLOR: I would think it highly
- 15 unlikely.
- 16 QUESTION: Highly unlikely. Well, okay.
- 17 QUESTION: Well, it did happen in California,
- 18 did it not? On some occasions? Or aren't you familiar
- 19 with that?
- 20 MR. TAYLOR: I am not familiar if it did
- 21 happen in California.
- QUESTION: I am talking about a convention,
- 23 not a state.
- MR. TAYLOR: At the point in time in March
- 25 then when those two entities have qualified for the

- 1 ballot, the difference between the independent candidate
- 2 and the political party is simply that the political
- 3 party has not yet named the person who is going to carry
- 4 its banner, and the reason for that goes to the
- 5 fundamental nature of the differences between political
- 6 parties and independent candidacies.
- 7 The independent candidacy is a candidacy by
- 8 definition built around a single individual who is
- 9 running on his ideas, his principles, and his beliefs.
- 10 The political party obviously has a much broader
- 11 existence. It has principles beyond those of the
- 12 individual person. It has a continuing program of
- 13 electing officials that extends beyond a particular
- 14 election, and it is because of these organizational
- 15 differences between the political party and the
- 16 independent candidate that the process for selecting the
- 17 person who is going to carry the political party banner
- 18 is more complicated than it is for the independent
- 19 candidate. By definition, the party must pick and
- 20 choose its candidate, and it does that through the
- 21 system of primaries and conventions.
- 22 This Court considered whether or not the
- 23 differences, those kinds of differences between
- 24 political parties and independent candidates might
- 25 violate the equal protection clause in Jeness against

- 1 Fortson, in which a claim was in fact made by an
- 2 independent candidate that there was invidious
- 3 discrimination because he did in fact have to file his
- 4 petitions and qualify for the ballot that way, whereas
- 5 the political party candidate could qualify by winning
- 6 the primary at some later point in time.
- 7 The Court in rejecting that claim indicated
- 8 that these were simply two different types of
- 9 procedures, and that it is not possible to compare
- 10 political parties and independent candidates for all
- 11 purposes, and indeed, that the grossest discrimination
- 12 can sometimes lie in treating things that are different
- 13 as though they were the same.
- And with respect to the Fourteenth Amendment
- 15 issue in this case, Ohio's position is that it is simply
- 16 not appropriate to compare those two very different
- 17 routes to the ballot. However, even accepting the
- 18 premise offered by Petitioner for the moment, and
- 19 assuming that one can make an attempt to compare the
- 20 individuals who seek political party nomination with the
- 21 independent candidates, we still believe no invidious
- 22 discrimination can be shown, and that is for this reason.
- The independent candidates are required to
- 24 file for the ballot on the same date in March as those
- 25 party candidates who are seeking delegates to the

- 1 national conventions. The burden posed on each is the
- 2 same or arguably even more burdensome for the party
- 3 candidate, and I should add here that it is indeed clear
- 4 in Chio that it is the party candidate who is seeking
- 5 these delegates. It is the party candidate's name who
- 6 goes on the ballot. He must give his written consent to
- 7 all the delegates that file petitions on his behalf, and
- 8 indeed, he even has the right to determine the order in
- 9 which delegates are selected.
- 10 So that it is indeed a case --
- 11 QUESTION: May I interrupt you for just a
- 12 second here? It seems to me there is some inconsistency
- 13 between your two arguments. Your first argument that
- 14 there is no -- you are comparing different things says
- 15 that the process in the party process is more
- 16 complicated, and there are special problems associated,
- 17 which would seem to justify a longer period to -- for
- 18 party candidates.
- But once you said they are different. Now you
- 20 are saying, well, there is no discrimination because
- 21 they are the same. But if the reason for the length of
- 22 time required for the party process doesn't apply to the
- 23 independents, why do you have it?
- MR. TAYLOR: Well --
- 25 QUESTION: Maybe I don't make my question

- 1 clear.
- 2 MR. TAYLOR: The arguments -- the argument is
- 3 an alternative argument, I think, Your Honor.
- 4 QUESTION: And they are sort of inconsistent
- 5 with one another.
- 6 MR. TAYLOR: It is an argument that says we
- 7 don't think that it's possible to make this comparison,
- 8 but even assuming --
- 9 QUESTION: But the reason you say that is, you
- 10 say you need more time to process the party candidates.
- 11 That is the heart of your argument, as I understood it.
- 12 MR. TAYLOR: Yes, sir.
- 13 QUESTION: And how can then that justify
- 14 treating them equally?
- 15 MR. TAYLOR: The burden -- I think it is
- 16 appropriate to look to the burden that each type of
- 17 candidate faces in March. The burden in March is, if
- 18 anything, even at that point in time, forgetting
- 19 everything that comes after March, if anything, more
- 20 severe on the party candidate. The party candidate has
- 21 to file --
- 22 QUESTION: I think by hypothesis you have
- 23 settled with her -- Justice O'Connor brought up, we are
- 24 not interested in the burden on the candidate. We are
- 25 interested in the burden on -- I don't know how many, 6

- 1 percent of the electorate was that wanted to vote for
- 2 Mr. Anderson. We are talking about the burden on those
- 3 people, as to whether they can vote for the person they
- 4 want to vote for. And it seems to me your job is to
- 5 explain to us that that is a reasonable -- it is
- 6 reasonable to say to that 6 percent of the electorate,
- 7 no, you cannot vote for Mr. Anderson, for these
- 8 reasons. You are talking about, you know, the burden on
- 9 Mr. Anderson, which is not what we are interested in.
- 10 MR. TAYLOR: Well, there are indeed reasons,
- 11 and we have advanced, I think, three of them in our
- 12 brief, for that different treatment between the two
- 13 candidates.
- 14 QUESTION: Does Ohio permit a write-in
- 15 candidate in the election for President or not?
- 16 MR. TAYLOR: Yes, it does. And as Mr.
- 17 Frampton indicated, it would require filing, I believe,
- 18 40 days before the election a notice of intention.
- 19 QUESTION: On whose part?
- 20 MR. TAYLOR: On the part of the write-in
- 21 candidate.
- QUESTION: Well, may people just walk into the
- 23 voting place and vote for a person for President who has
- 24 never indicated any interest in the position? In some
- 25 states, that can be done.

- MR. TAYLOR: Well, it can be done in Ohio, Mr.
- 2 Chief Justice, in a physical sense, in the sense that we
- 3 have it happen all the time, too, that people do that,
- 4 but I think the consequence is, if you haven't filed a
- 5 notice of intention, that the ballots may not be
- 6 counted.
- 7 OUESTION: You can vote for them, but they
- 8 won't be counted.
- 9 QUESTION: I was just wondering if anybody had
- 10 ever gotten elected.
- 11 QUESTION: Has any third party candidate ever
- 12 been elected, since we have had parties?
- 13 MR. TAYLOR: No, I don't believe any third
- 14 party candidate has ever been elected.
- 15 Returning to the question of whether we are
- 16 treating the political party candidates and the
- 17 independent candidates equally, the burden at the point
- 18 in time in March on the independent candidate is to file
- 19 5,000 petition signatures. The burden on the political
- 20 party candidate through his delegates is to file
- 21 something in excess of 4,000 signatures, slightly less,
- 22 on behalf of his delegate slate, but on the other hand,
- those signatures can come only from persons who are
- 24 members of that political party, unlike with respect to
- 25 the independent candidate, and there is a geographical

- 1 distribution requirement with respect to some of those
- 2 signatures.
- So that if anything, the burden on the party
- 4 candidate is more at that point in time. At that point
- 5 in time, the independent candidate has done everything
- 6 he needs to do to qualify for the ballot. It is after
- 7 that point in time that the parties have the more
- 8 difficult process. So that the -- we are not requiring
- 9 anything more from the two types of candidates in March
- 10 of any year.
- Indeed, the situation is that they are
- 12 required to do about the same, but after that date it is
- 13 a much more lengthy and burdensome process for the party
- 14 to select its candidate. There has --
- 15 QUESTION: Well, if we focus, Mr. Taylor, on
- 16 the right of the voter, and then make the inquiry
- 17 Whether it is an undue burden, how do you respond to the
- 18 argument that it is a severe burden because they simply
- 19 aren't entitled to vote at all for Mr. Anderson?
- 20 MR. TAYLOR: Well, in several ways, Justice
- 21 O'Connor. As a factual matter, we have in fact had many
- 22 candidates qualify as independent candidates for
- 23 President on our ballot, so that there is a choice and
- 24 has been a choice under our system. Indeed, five
- 25 candidates in each of the last two elections for the

- 1 independent voters --
- QUESTION: Yes, but of course those weren't
- 3 the late blooming people out of a political party, like
- 4 Mr. Anderson says that his situation represents. So it
- 5 would be interesting to know if there were other people
- 6 like Mr. Anderson who came late out of a political party
- 7 structure who were denied access to the ballot in Ohio.
- 8 MR. TAYLOR: There is no evidence in the
- 9 record of this case, and the Petitioner produced none,
- 10 to show that we have ever had that kind of a problem
- 11 with the Ohio filing deadline, and we would indeed
- 12 submit, and the Sixth Circuit, I think, found that the
- 13 most likely impact of this filing deadline is with
- 14 respect to a candidate such as Anderson, who had no
- 15 trouble at all making up his mind that he wanted to seek
- 16 the Presidency, but simply wished to switch horses in
- 17 the middle of the stream.
- 18 As a factual matter, there is simply no
- 19 evidence of any burden on independent candidates in this
- 20 case, and I would submit the hypothetical --
- QUESTION: You only need one case, don't you,
- 22 and it did keep him off the ballot, didn't it?
- MR. TAYLOR: That's correct. It did. But of
- 24 course any time, any time you have a ballot regulation,
- 25 the plaintiff is going to be somebody who didn't comply

- 1 with it. If in fact that were the only criteria for
- 2 determining whether we have enough of a burden so that
- 3 we have to meet tests like strict scrutiny, we would
- 4 have it in every case --
- 5 QUESTION: Yes.
- 6 MR. TAYLOR: -- because the plaintiff is
- 7 invariably somebody who hasn't met the requirement,
- s whatever it is.
- 9 QUESTION: But the difference is that here we
- 10 can see the burden. We know how many people voted for
- 11 him. And there were quite a few. We don't have any
- 12 other case like this? Your five minor party candidates
- 13 that you say got on the ballot, you had all of them up
- 14 together, and I bet they didn't get as many votes as he
- 15 did.
- 16 MR. TAYLOR: That's correct, Justice Stevens,
- 17 but I think if we look at the situation that the
- 18 political party voter finds himself in in August, at the
- 19 time of his conventions, we find it is not really any
- 20 different than the voter for the independent candidate.
- 21 Let's assume, for example, at the time of the
- 22 convention that a substantial block of persons within a
- 23 major political party is dissatisfied with all the
- 24 candidates that have been produced through the primaries
- 25 and the conventions, and would like -- they don't want

- 1 to bolt the party, but they would like to coalesce
- 2 around a different candidate within the party.
- Well, they are under the same kind of
- 4 disability that the independent candidate is. The field
- 5 of candidates is narrowed in the spring.
- 6 QUESTION: That is not a big disability
- 7 imposed by your state statute. That is a disability
- 8 imposed by party problems.
- 9 MR. TAYLOR: But I think it is fair to view
- 10 our statute in the context of the way the Presidential
- 11 election occurs in this country, and indeed, that is
- 12 critical to an understanding of this alternative equal
- 13 protection argument, because there has been a
- 14 fundamental change in the method of selection of the
- 15 Presidential candidates that occurred just prior to the
- 16 time that Ohio adopted this filing deadline.
- 17 The political commentators who have written on
- 18 this subject in the last two or three years, and we cite
- 19 six of them on Page 28 of our brief, are unanimous in
- 20 their declaration that a fundamental change occurred
- 21 after the 1968 Presidential election such that we
- 22 switched from basically a brokered convention system to
- 23 a system that results in the nominees of the parties
- 24 being selected through the primaries.
- 25 And those commentators are unanimous in their

- 1 view that any party candidate who wishes to seek the
- 2 nomination, if he is serious about it at all, has to go
- 3 after it in this day and age in the primary, and that
- 4 means in turn that the candidate has to be seeking
- 5 delegates to the convention through the primary election
- 6 system, so that the party candidates in Chio are going
- 7 to be in there filing their petitions and making their
- 8 decision to go for office at the same time as the
- 9 independent candidate.
- 10 I think it is a myth to talk about candidates
- 11 arising as late as August with one possible exception,
- 12 and that is if you've got an extreme situation like the
- 13 death of a candidate or a sudden withdrawal, but most of
- 14 the time, indeed probably more than 90 percent of the
- 15 time, we are going to have a situation where the people
- 16 that want this -- the office of President are in there
- 17 at the same time in Ohio fighting for it.
- 18 QUESTION: Well, really, all you are arguing
- 19 is that this doesn't happen very often, but the question
- 20 is, when it happens, what is the state interest in
- 21 justifying refusing to let this large group of people
- 22 vote for the person they want to vote for?
- MR. TAYLOR: We have -- We are asserting
- 24 basically three interests in having what we view as a
- 25 simultaneous filing deadline for party candidates and

- 1 independent candidates. The first is that we think it
- 2 promotes the equal treatment of those candidates. The
- 3 interest that the Sixth Circuit in this case discussed
- 4 most extensively was the interest in what it called
- 5 voter education, and the -- having those joint filing
- 6 deadlines serves that interest in this way. The
- 7 Presidential campaigns have begun earlier and earlier,
- 8 if anything, in recent years, and we find the voters
- 9 buffeted by exploratory committees, and rumors, and it
- 10 is a confused situation.
- 11 The requirement that those persons who are
- 12 serious about pursuing that nomination in Ohio file
- 13 something at the same time in March that says who they
- 14 are really serves, I think, a couple of different voter
- 15 education interests. It enables those people -- It
- 16 basically puts the voter in the position of
- 17 understanding what his options are in the spring.
- I mean, if, for example, he wants to commit a
- 19 certain amount of money to political campaigns, he knows
- 20 that his alternative is this group of independents or
- 21 these people within the political party. If he wants to
- 22 decide to work for a candidate, he has got all his
- 23 options in front of him. He knows who is going to be --
- QUESTION: Mr. Taylor, are you urging that the
- 25 problem with this case is to adjust constitutional

- 1 rights to political theorists and theories?
- 2 MR. TAYLOR: What I am urging --
- 3 QUESTION: I mean, these six people or
- 4 whatever it is, I don't even know what you are talking
- 5 about. I mean, we can't adjust constitutional theories
- 6 to what they predict that a voter will do, can we?
- 7 MR. TAYLOR: I think, Your Honor, that it is
- 8 fair to adjudge the constitutionality of this statute in
- 9 light of the way the Presidential election system
- 10 works. I am not talking simply about political theory.
- 11 I am talking about laws that have been changed --
- 12 QUESTION: What do you have that is
- 13 unanimously agreed is how the political theory works? I
- 14 mean, I for one can mention at least one occasion when
- 15 all the political theorists in the world were wrong.
- 16 And I bet you could, too.
- 17 MR. TAYLOR: Well, without inquiring as to
- 18 what that situation is, the argument is --
- 19 QUESTION: I don't know which one I want to
- 20 give you.
- 21 (General laughter.)
- MR. TAYLOR: The argument is simply that as a
- 23 practical matter, the candidates who are seeking --
- 24 QUESTION: The Constitution should be measured
- 25 by a practical matter?

- 1 MR. TAYLOR: Well, the -- Your Honor, as long
- 2 ago as Fullman v. Knott, Justice Holmes indicated that
- 3 an equal protection issue should not be decided upon a
- 4 hypothetical state of facts, and I think that the
- 5 situation that is being posed by the Petitioner in this
- 6 case is largely a hypothetical state of facts. He does
- 7 not represent one of these late emerging candidacies at
- 8 the time of the conventions in August. He represents
- 9 someone who had no trouble at all making up his mind
- 10 that he wanted to run for President, but simply chose
- 11 what he later decided to be the wrong method.
- 12 QUESTION: Do you mean by that that having
- 13 filed as a Republican, he had decided to change horses,
- 14 or maybe change from riding a horse to walking.
- (General laughter.)
- 16 MR. TAYLOR: What I am saying is that he
- 17 decided, I think, in this case as early as June, 1979,
- 18 that he wished the Republican -- or that he wished to
- 19 become President. Having made that decision, in Ohio he
- 20 had to decide by March 20th whether he wished to seek it
- 21 on an independent -- as an independent or through the
- 22 political party system. He chose the political party
- 23 system, decided it was a mistake, and tried to switch.
- QUESTION: Now, when a candidate misses that
- 25 deadline, an independent candidate, do I understand

- 1 correctly from what you said that if he gives 40 days'
- 2 notice, then he may have a write-in campaign, and his --
- 3 any written in ballots will be counted?
- 4 MR. TAYLOR: That's correct, Your Honor.
- 5 QUESTION: So the door is not completely
- 6 closed to him.
- 7 MR. TAYLOR: That's correct, Your Honor. The
- 8 door is not completely closed.
- 9 QUESTION: How many write-in ballots were cast
- 10 in the last election in the whole state of Ohio?
- 11 MR. TAYLOR: I don't know that figure, Justice
- 12 Marshall.
- 13 QUESTION: Does anybody? No. You know they
- 14 weren't even counted, were they?
- MR. TAYLOR: I am sure that if anyone filed
- 16 with a 40-day notice, they were counted, but I can't
- 17 tell you off the top of my head. It is undoubtedly not
- 18 a large number. I mean, no one is going to contend that
- 19 it is.
- 20 I would like to turn quickly in the remaining
- 21 minute or two to one of the things that was raised by
- 22 the Petitioner in his statement, and that is the effect
- 23 of the withdrawal from the ballot, from Ohio's
- 24 Republican ballot made by Congressman Anderson in this
- 25 case.

- 1 He withdrew from the ballot under a Section
- 2 3513.30 that specifically allows Presidential candidates
- 3 to withdraw from the ballot up to 30 days before the
- 4 deadline. We had contended in our answering brief in
- 5 this case that the purpose of that statute was simply to
- 6 avoid voter confusion on election day. In the reply
- 7 brief, Petitioner indicates that, no, that was not the
- 8 reason for it at all. The reason for it was to avoid
- 9 what would otherwise be the applicability of Ohio's
- 10 so-called sore loser statute.
- 11 The Petitioner is simply incorrect in this
- 12 contention. If we look at the legislative history for
- 13 Section 3513.30, which was enacted in House Bill 1245 in
- 14 1976, a bill that dealt only with this subject, we find
- 15 that that bill became effective in April, right before
- 16 the primary date. It was enacted as an emergency
- 17 measure to get it immediately effective under Ohio law,
- 18 which requires a higher vote than a normal bill.
- 19 The reason stated for the bill in that
- 20 emergency clause was to spare the voters of Ohio the
- 21 confusion of having on the ballot the names of persons
- 22 who no longer wished to be candidates, and the expense
- 23 of counting ballots for such persons. So, indeed, that
- 24 statute did not have anything to do with avoiding the
- 25 sore loser provision. The sore loser provision has been

- 1 stipulated to be inapplicable in this case. It may or
- 2 may not be inapplicable because of the fact that there
- 3 was a withdrawal. It is clearly inapplicable because by
- 4 the terms of the statute itself, it does not apply in
- 5 the Presidential election, as the Sixth Circuit noted in
- 6 Footnote 3 of its opinion.
- 7 Thank you.
- 8 QUESTION: Mr. Taylor, before you sit down,
- 9 let me just ask you one question. You started to
- 10 identify three different state interests that were at
- 11 stake here. One was the equal treatment of candidates.
- 12 The second was voter education. You never got to the
- 13 third. What was the third?
- 14 MR. TAYLOR: The third is the political
- 15 stability interest that I have just touched upon.
- 16 QUESTION: Thank you. I just wanted to be
- 17 sure I had it.
- 18 MR. TAYLOR: Thank you.
- 19 CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Do you have anything
- 20 further, Mr. Frampton? You have four minutes
- 21 remaining.
- ORAL ARGUMENT OF GEORGE T. FRAMPTON, JR., ESQ.,
- ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS REBUTTAL
- 24 MR. FRAMPTON: Thank you, Mr. Chief Justice,
- 25 and may it please the Court, I would just like to

- 1 respond to one question asked by Justice Stevens, and
- 2 one by the Chief Justice of Mr. Taylor.
- I don't think it's just the 6 percent of the
- 4 electorate that voted for Congressman Anderson in the
- 5 November election whose rights are burdened here. The
- 6 record shows and the district court found that as of the
- 7 time this lawsuit was brought, the poll data, for
- 8 whatever that is worth, showed that Congressman Anderson
- 9 was the first choice of some place between 23 and 44
- 10 percent of the electorate. I think that is a very
- 11 significant burden.
- 12 QUESTION: In Ohio?
- 13 MR. FRAMPTON: Nationwide.
- 14 QUESTION: What about Ohio?
- 15 MR. FRAMPTON: We did not have any particular
- 16 statistics from Ohio, but I believe those polls showed
- 17 that his strongest support came from eight northeastern
- 18 states, one of which included Ohio. It didn't break it
- 19 out beyond that, to my recollection.
- 20 The burden isn't just a burden that narrows
- 21 the range of candidates. It would have not only
- 22 disqualified these people from voting for Congressman
- 23 Anderson, but from putting forward any independent
- 24 candidate after March 20.
- The Chief Justice asked whether any third

- 1 force candidate had ever been elected President. I
- 2 believe the answer to that is no. Since 1948, however,
- 3 three former Presidents, a former Vice President, at
- 4 least two former Senators, a former Governor, a former
- 5 Congressman have run for President as third party
- 6 candidates or independent candidates. They have played
- 7 an important role in American political history, but it
- 8 has mainly been a role in the marketplace of ideas and
- 9 in their impacts on the major parties.
- 10 They haven't won, and I think that
- 11 demonstrates that the practical and political barriers
- 12 to independent candidates are very significant by
- 13 themselves, and they include the efforts that an
- 14 independent has to go through to get on the ballot in 50
- 15 different states under 50 different sets of laws which
- 16 customarily have exhausted that candidate in ballot
- 17 access activities rather than campaiging.
- The proposition of our case is, those burdens
- 19 are high enough. The state should not be permitted
- 20 discriminatorily, without a considered state interest,
- 21 from adding additional handicaps to the independent or
- 22 the third party candidate without the legislative
- 23 judgment that that burden --
- 24 QUESTION: You say that is a considered state
- 25 interest. Do you mean compelling?

- 1 MR. FRAMPTON: I use the phrase, Justice
- 2 Brennan, "a considered legislative judgment," out of the
- 3 Court's opinion in the Broadrick v. Oklahoma case, which
- 4 pertained to different kinds of First Amendment rights.
- 5 QUESTION: But basically, as I understand your
- 6 argument, if, as you, in your colloguy with Justice
- 7 White, you fail on the argument that there is an
- 8 overbreadth about this statute that requires that it be
- 9 struck down under the First Amendment, that
- 10 alternatively in any event the state can't justify this
- 11 statute without establishing a compelling state
- 12 interest, which it has not done. Am I right?
- 13 MR. FRAMPTON: You are right, Justice
- 14 Brennan. In addition to those arguments, we also
- 15 contend that there is not even a rational relationship,
- 16 because the voters --
- 17 QUESTION: I know, but you do -- you do
- 18 suggest, do you not, that the standard of review ought
- 19 to be strict scrutiny?
- 20 MR. FRAMPTON: That is correct.
- 21 CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Thank you, gentlemen.
- 22 The case is submitted.
- (Whereupon, at 11:03 o'clock a.m., the case in
- 24 the above-entitled matter was submitted.)

25

CERTIFICATION

Alderson Reporting Company, Inc., hereby certifies that the attached pages represent an accurate transcription of electronic sound recording of the oral argument before the Supreme Court of the United States in the Matter of:

JOHN B. ANDERSON ET AL., Petitioners v. ANTHONY J. CELEBREZZE, JR. SECRETARY OF THE STATE OF OHIO #81-1635

and that these attached pages constitute the original transcript of the proceedings for the records of the court.

(REPORTER)

SUPPLEME COURT, U.S. MARSHAL'S OFFICE