

Amazing Vanished Rights

June 30, 2021

Suppose you have the right to walk across a room.

Yet you're legally chained to a chair.

By your rights, you may get up and walk across the room. But you can't, because of the chains. You could if only you could. Why, there's even a document specifying your right to do so. You *physically* can't exercise this right; that's the only problem.

But your right to walk across the room is enshrined and protected.

Or is it?

Recently, Idaho lawmakers passed and Governor Little signed a law making it almost impossible for citizens to place a question onto the ballot.

In fact, we *have* no right in the sense of a legal ability to do a certain thing if its exercise is, by law, thwarted.

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impossible for citizens to place a question onto the ballot. Until now, Idaho required that 6 percent of registered voters in 18 of 35 legislative districts sign the petition to send a question to ballot. Gratuitously onerous, but at least possible to comply with.

That possibility was a big problem for opponents of citizen initiative rights, however. Hence the new law, requiring signatures from 6 percent of registered voters in *each* of 35 districts.

Reclaim Idaho challenged the law. The Idaho Supreme Court is currently hearing the case.

According to Reclaim Idaho co-founder Luke Mayville: "If you claim that the people ought to have a right to put something on the ballot [but] make it impossible to exercise that right, it's not really much of a right at all."

Do justice, justices.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.