

## **Reclaim Democracy for People! Stop Corporate "Personhood" and SuperPACs - Amend the Constitution**

### **Resolution supporting City Advisory Measure on a Constitutional Amendment to Regulate Corporate Political Spending and Campaign Financing**

**Whereas**, in a 2010 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, *Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission*, the Supreme Court overturned some provisions of the federal Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act enacted in 2002, and ruled that corporate entities have the same rights as persons to unrestricted spending on political speech; and,

**Whereas**, in reaching its decision, a majority of the Supreme Court, relying on prior decisions, interpreted the First Amendment of the Constitution to afford corporations the same free speech protections as natural persons and,

**Whereas**, the Court's decision in effect allows unlimited corporate spending to influence campaigns, elections, lawmaking and public policy decisions. In the two years since the ruling, there has been tremendous growth in contributions and spending by super political action committees for media ads and related independent electioneering activities and,

**Whereas**, the Court's decision in the case of *Citizens United v. F.E.C.* severely restricts the ability of federal, state and local governments to enact reasonable campaign finance reforms and regulations regarding corporate political activity and,

**Whereas**, several proposed amendments to the Constitution have recently been introduced in Congress that would allow governments to regulate the raising and spending of money by corporations to influence elections and,

**Whereas**, the people of the United States have previously used the constitutional amendment process to correct decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court that are deemed to be egregious or wrongly decided or significantly out-of-step with the prevailing values of the populace and,

**Whereas**, previously in matters of general public policy which may shape specific lawmaking and regulations developed at the level of local jurisdictions, it has been useful and productive to determine the views of local voters regarding those policy matters, and to allow and encourage public expression of voters' views by means of an advisory ballot.

**Therefore, be it Resolved,**

\_\_\_\_\_ [organization]

hereby urges the city/county council of \_\_\_\_\_ [city/county]  
to submit to local voters, for approval or disapproval, the following advisory ballot measure (page 2)  
to the [mayor / county executive] and members of the local city / county council; and,

**Be it further Resolved,**

That the members of the governing council are asked to adopt a Resolution of the Council, expressing a similar advisory opinion, to be forwarded to the President of the United States, members of the U.S. Congress from Washington State, Governor Gregoire, and all members of the Washington State Legislature; and also submitted to local media outlets.

**Advisory Statement on a Constitutional Amendment  
to Limit Corporate Political Spending and to  
Regulate Campaign Financing**

*To be placed on city or county ballot,  
for voters approval/disapproval, November 6, 2012.*

We The People, citizens of Seattle, Washington, hereby urge the Washington State Legislature and the United States Congress to amend the United States Constitution to clearly state that:

- (1) Corporations are not human beings, and only human beings are endowed with Constitutional rights.
- (2) Contributions and expenditures for political purposes are not Constitutionally-protected speech. Therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.
- (3) Congress and the States shall have the power to regulate contributions and expenditures for campaigns and ballot measures, and to require public disclosure of the sources of such contributions and expenditures.

If this Advisory Measure is approved by majority vote on November 6, 2012, we the voters of \_\_\_\_\_[city/county], Washington hereby request that a certified copy of this Advisory Measure on a Constitutional Amendment to Limit Corporate Political Spending and to Regulate Campaign Financing be forwarded immediately to President Barack Obama, and to Senator Patty Murray and Senator Maria Cantwell, and to all members of Congress representing Congressional districts in Washington State, and to Governor Gregoire, and to all members of the Washington State Senate and House.

Furthermore, if this Advisory Measure is approved by majority vote on November 6, 2012, we the voters of \_\_\_\_\_[city/county] hereby request that the mayor or county executive and city/county council of \_\_\_\_\_[city/county] support education of the public about this Constitutional fair elections issue and support advocacy efforts to achieve a Constitutional amendment containing provisions as outlined herein.

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