

Reclaiming Democracy for PEOPLE

Court rulings show we must amend the U.S. Constitution

What Can I Do?

Consider the issues. Explore and embrace the solutions:

- **Write a story, and connect the dots:** What issues do you, your family and friends care about - concerns such as jobs, health care, housing, fair taxes, availability of public/community services. How are each of these affected when elections results and lawmaking are skewed by private greed and corporate interest? Is corporate rule good for you? For the country?

Some U.S. Senators have said, "The banks OWN the place!" - speaking of Congress, and lobbyists. How can we make sure that lawmakers listen to people, rather than to corporate lobbyists?

- In the *Citizens United* ruling, the Supreme Court ruled again that "money is speech" - and so there can be no restrictions to corporate spending on "political speech" - to influence election results.

Of course, this ruling threatens to undermine "one-person, one-vote". It must be overturned. That can be done ONLY by amending the U.S. Constitution, to clarify that corporate entities are not persons, and so do not have the same rights as persons to unlimited spending on political activity to influence elections. We cannot allow democracy to be hijacked by wealth and corporate power.

- **Visit websites and sources,** to learn about the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* ruling. Understand the impact on campaigns, election outcomes, and lobbying/lawmaking in Congress.

Here are some sites to visit:

The Story of Citizens United -- <http://storyofstuff.org/citizensunited/>

Washington Public Campaigns -- www.washclean.org/CitizensUnited.htm

Free Speech For People -- freespeechforpeople.org **Move To Amend** -- movetoamend.org

Public Citizen -- www.citizen.org **Open Secrets.Org** -- www.opensecrets.org

- **Write a script for yourself.** How would issues you care about be resolved - what reforms would be possible - if Congress and the statehouses were truly accountable to the people instead of to lobbyists and campaign donors. Would we have a fairer tax system, money for education, affordable health care, an end to war profiteering, consumer-friendly banking laws?

Talk about these issues, among friends and neighbors

- Encourage friends to think about these issues, to investigate, and to join our movement.
- Host a gathering in your home, among neighbors and friends, to talk about issues of concern. Discuss how to recapture a democracy driven by people, not by wealth and corporate lobbying.
- Distribute information door-to-door in your neighborhood, or at club meetings.
- Arrange a speaker, for your neighborhood club, union, church, PTA or book club.

Make your voice heard. Be visible. Help others to raise their voice

- Send calls and emails to state and federal elected officials:
Info here, on how to reach them: www.washclean.org/contactcongress.htm
- Write your local newspaper. Call in to talk shows. Add your voice to blog sites.
- Circulate petitions, showing support to overturn the *Citizens United* decision.
- Enact resolutions of support from your union, church, and civic groups - even your city council.
- Attend town meetings, rallies, public forums.
- Empower your friends to take action. A nationwide movement consists of many, many people!