

Keep the discussion focused on this key point:

**New Hampshire’s citizen legislature is being threatened by outside spending from the left and the right. Soon it will no longer be a government of, by and for the people of New Hampshire, but one bought and sold to the highest bidder.  Including hidden and foreign sources**

**For example, in the 2012 New Hampshire gubernatorial race, outside groups spent $19 million, almost 5 times what the candidates spent themselves.**

**Do not allow a motion to table**

Ask for a point of privilege and ask whether this would mean that your town wouldn’t have the chance to take a stand against outside spending corrupting our democracy; outside spending that makes it so New Hampshire is no longer of, by and for the people, but instead bought and sold by outside interests from the left and the right.

**Some questions you might receive.  Any other suggestions?**

**This isn’t for our town meeting. It’s a state and national issue.**

Town meeting is the fundamental element of American democracy and entirely appropriate where the preservation of the democratic government to be discussed.

Over 50 towns are voting on this in New Hampshire and over 500 have taken a stand around the nation. Every town’s voice matters in building this movement. Spending is not just on a state and federal level, but also effects local races where even small city councils such as Richmond, California and Oklahoma City have seen hundreds of thousands of dollars of outside spending in their city council races.

**[Art.] 10. [Right of Revolution.]** Government being instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security, of the whole community, and not for the private interest or emolument of any one man, family, or class of men; therefore, whenever the ends of government are perverted, and public liberty manifestly endangered, and all other means of redress are ineffectual, the people may, and of right ought to reform the old, or establish a new government. The doctrine of nonresistance against arbitrary power, and oppression, is absurd, slavish, and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind.

**Is this anti-corporation?**

No. We are saying that corporations don’t have the right to spend on elections and that constitutional rights are for “we the people” not “we the corporations”. We’re not saying that corporations shouldn’t have rights, just not automatically the same rights that we established for individuals.

**Will campaign spending of unions and corporations be affected in the same way?**

Yes. The amendments being discussed in congress enable regulation of campaign spending from all entities - individuals, corporations and unions. Some completely ban spending from all who are not natural persons, including unions and corporations.

**Why New Hampshire?**

16 other states, including all the other states in New England, have called for an amendment. New Hampshire would join the growing bipartisan chorus of legislators who support an amendment.

**Is this a partisan issue?**

Republicans, Democrats and Independents all support an amendment in New Hampshire when polled by a 3 to 1 margin.

Democrats, Republicans and Independents have supported similar legislation throughout the nation, including in Maine, where a similar measure passed 25 to 9 in its Senate and 111 to 33 in its House.[[1]](#endnote-1)[i] Outside spending can have dramatic effects on races on both sides of the aisle. For example, in the recent Virginia governor race, the Republican candidate was outspent 2 to 1.[[2]](#endnote-2)[ii]  This trend has been mirrored nationally this year, [[3]](#endnote-3)[iii] and candidates on both sides are increasingly threatened by large outside spenders.

**This is just an effort being run by outsiders**

No. This is a powerful grassroots efforts led by New Hampshirites like the over 100 residents who marched across the state in the dead of the winter for democracy, andmyself who gathered petition signatures to introduce the motion. It is being led by those of us who want to stand up for democracy.

1. [i] Maine Citizens for Clean Elections (April 30, 2013) “Maine Legislature Calls on Congress to Pass Constitutional Amendment to Reverse Citizens United” Retrieved 27 Dec 2013 from https://www.mainecleanelections.org/sites/default/files/press\_releases/2013/130430\_MCCE\_PressRelease\_LegPassesCAResolution\_State.pdf [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. [ii] Evan Halper, *Los Angeles Times* (5 Nov 2013)Retrieved 27 Dec 2013 from http://www.latimes.com/nation/politics/politicsnow/la-pn-democrats-gop-virginia-governor-election-20131105,0,2396386.story#axzz2lPGYLRQg [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. # [iii]Fredreka Schouten, USA Today (13 Nov 2013) “Pro-Democratic super PACs outspend conservatives.” Retrieved 27 Dec 2013 from http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2013/11/11/liberal-super-pacs-and-dark-money-groups-outspend-conservatives-in-2013-races/3495983/axzz2lPGYLRQg

   [↑](#endnote-ref-3)