



“Supreme Court opinion notwithstanding, corporations are not defined as people under the Constitution, and free speech can hardly be called free when only the rich are heard.”

- The late New Hampshire Republican U.S. Senator Warren Rudman

New Hampshire Resolution to Get Big Money Out of Politics

To see if the town will urge:

That the New Hampshire State Legislature join nearly 500 municipalities and 16 other states, including all other New England states, in calling upon Congress to move forward a constitutional amendment that

- 1) guarantees the right of our elected representatives and of the American people to safeguard fair elections through authority to regulate political spending, and
- 2) clarifies that constitutional rights were established for people, not corporations.

That the New Hampshire Congressional delegation support such a constitutional amendment.

That the New Hampshire State Legislature support such an amendment once it is approved by Congress and sent to the State for ratification.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice to our town’s congressional delegation, and to our town’s state legislators, and to the President of the United States informing them of the instructions from their constituents by the selectmen within 30 days of the vote.

The impact of *Citizens United* and Money in Politics in New Hampshire

- In the 2012 New Hampshire gubernatorial race, outside groups spent \$19 million, almost 5 times what the candidates spent themselves.ⁱ
- 72% of New Hampshire residents oppose the *Citizens United* ruling (81% Democrats, 70% Independents, 64% Republicans). 69% of New Hampshire residents support a constitutional amendment that limits campaign contributions and spending (75% Democrats, 73 Independents, 61% Republicans).ⁱⁱ
- Over \$10 million was spent by outside spenders on New Hampshire House races in 2012. This contrasts the approximately \$2 million spent by outside spenders on these races in 2006 and 2008, prior to the *Citizens United* ruling.ⁱⁱⁱ
- The New Hampshire House of Representatives has already passed a resolution calling for Congress to overturn *Citizens United* by a bipartisan vote of 189-139. Momentum is building for the resolution’s passage in the State Senate.

Americans Are Outraged by the Court’s Decision

- Nearly nine in ten Americans (88%) say that big companies have too much power in Washington D.C.^{iv}
- Republicans, Democrats and Independents who have heard about *Citizens United* believe by an almost 4-to-1 margin that the ruling is having a negative effect.^v

- 83% of Americans (85% of Democrats, 81% of Republicans and 78% of Independents) think there should be limits on how much money corporations can give in elections.^{vi}
- By a 5-1 margin, Americans agree that “there would be less corruption if there were limits on how much could be given to super PACs.” Only 14% disagree with this proposition. 75% of Republicans and 78% of Democrats agree.^{vii}
- 66% of small business owners view the *Citizens United* ruling as bad for the ability of small businesses to compete. Only 9% say it is good for small business.^{viii}

Since the Court’s Decision, Corporate Expenditures Have Soared

- Spending by outside groups rose 251% in 2012 over the previous presidential election cycle.^{ix}
- In the 2012 election, the largest super PAC spent an astounding \$142 million.^x
- Super PACs, which were created after an appeals court applied *Citizens United*, spent more than \$631 million during the 2012 election cycle. Overall outside spending was over \$1.25 billion.^{xi}
- Outside spending made a big difference in the 2010 congressional elections; outside groups backed the winners in 58 of the 74 contests in which power changed hands.^{xii}
- The 2012 election was the most expensive in history, costing more than \$6 billion.^{xiii}

Why a Constitutional Amendment

- A constitutional amendment is the long-term solution to fully reverse the court’s ruling, restore our rights and assert that democracy is for people, not corporations.
- A corporation is not a person. It does not vote and should not have such tremendous influence over elections; nor should the ultra-wealthy.
- Our elected officials cannot support the well-being of society when they fear that millions will go to defeating them in the next election if they defy corporate interests.

Support is growing quickly for an amendment

- So far, **more than 2 million people** have signed petitions in support of an amendment. At least **130 members of Congress** have declared their support.
- Sixteen states – California, Connecticut, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia - and the District of Columbia have called for an amendment.

ⁱ Coalition for Open Democracy, “The Need for Full Disclosure Now: New Hampshire Citizens Must Regain the Right to Know Who is Bankrolling Their Elections” Retrieved April 17, 2013 from <http://www.coalitionforopendemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/01/cod8pgdisclosurefinaldec17.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Granite State Poll, April 18, 2013

ⁱⁱⁱ Center for Responsive Politics. (2012) “2012 Outside Spending, by Race” Retrieved April 3, 2013 from <http://www.opensecrets.org/outsidespending/summ.php?cycle=2006&disp=R&pty=A&type=A>

^{iv} Harris Interactive (1 Jun 2011) Big Companies, PACs, Banks, Financial Institutions and Lobbyists Seen by Strong Majorities as Having Too Much Power and Influence in DC. Retrieved from <http://www.harrisinteractive.com/NewsRoom/HarrisPolls/tabid/447/mid/1508/articleid/790/ctl/ReadCustom%20Default/Default.aspx>

^v Pew Research Center (17 Jan 2012). “Super PACs Having Negative Impact, Say Voters Aware of ‘Citizens United’ Ruling, Retrieved 18 January, 2012, from <http://www.people-press.org/2012/01/17/super-pacs-having-negative-impact-say-voters-aware-of-citizens-united-ruling/>

^{vi} Associated Press, “The AP-National Constitution Center Poll,” http://ap-gfkpoll.com/main/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/AP-NCC-Poll-August-GfK-2012-Topline-FINAL_1st-release.pdf, (Aug. 2012).

^{vii} Brennan Center for Justice (24 April 2012). “National Survey: Super PACs, Corruption, and Democracy.” Retrieved 19 June 2012, from http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/national_survey_super_pacs_corruption_and_democracy.

^{viii} American Sustainable Business Council (17 Jan 2012). “Poll Results: Money and Politics” Retrieved 18 January, 2012, from http://www.asbcouncil.org/poll_money_in_politics.html

^{ix} Center for Responsive Politics, “Total Outside Spending by Election Cycle, Excluding Party Committees | OpenSecrets,” http://www.opensecrets.org/outsidespending/cycle_tots.php (accessed 1 March, 2013).

^x Center for Responsive Politics, “Restore Our Future” <http://www.opensecrets.org/outsidespending/detail.php?cmte=C00490045&cycle=2012> accessed 3/1/2013

^{xi} Center for Responsive Politics. “Outside Spending.” Retrieved 7 November, 2012, from <http://www.opensecrets.org/outsidespending/index.php>.

^{xii} *Outside Job* (November 2010). Public Citizen. Retrieved September, 2011, from <http://www.citizen.org/documents/Outside-Job-Report-20101103.pdf>.

^{xiii} Harper, J. (Jan 31 2013) “Total Election Spending: \$7 Billion” *Sunlight Foundation* Retrieved March 1, 2013 from <http://reporting.sunlightfoundation.com/2013/total-2012-election-spending-7-billion/>