#### RESOLUTION R-4967

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND STATING THE CITY COUNCIL'S POSITION THAT CORPORATIONS ARE NOT PERSONS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION FOR PURPOSES OF THE REGULATION OF ELECTIONS, THAT REGULATING POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND SPENDING IS NOT EQUIVALENT TO LIMITING POLITICAL SPEECH, AND SUPPORTING LIMITS ON CORPORATIONS' ABILITY TO SPEND MONEY DURING LOCAL AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

WHEREAS, allowing corporations the same political speech protections as those afforded to individuals results in unlimited corporate spending to influence campaigns and elections;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Kirkland as follows:

<u>Section 1</u>. Only human beings, not corporations, are persons under the United States Constitution for the purposes of the regulation of elections.

<u>Section 2</u>. Money is not speech, and the donation of money to a political campaign is not a form of constitutionally protected speech; therefore, regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

<u>Section 3</u>. The U.S. Congress and Washington State Legislature are urged to take action to correct the current unbridled ability of corporations to spend money during local and national elections.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this 19th day of February, 2013.

Signed in authentication thereof this 19th day of February, 2013.

Joan Well

Attest:

City Clerk

Council Meeting: 02/19/2013 Agenda: Unfinished Business

Item #: 10. b.



#### **MEMORANDUM**

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

**From:** Lorrie McKay, Intergovernmental Relations Manager

Date: February 8, 2013

Subject: RESOLUTION STATING COUNCIL'S POSITION THAT CORPORATIONS ARE NOT PERSONS

UNDER THE CONSTITUTION FOR PURPOSES OF THE REGULATION OF ELECTIONS, THAT REGULATING POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND SPENDING IS NOT EQUIVALENT TO LIMITING POLITICAL SPEECH, AND SUPPORTING LIMITS ON CORPORATIONS'

ABILITY TO SPEND MONEY DURING LOCAL AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Council considers the attached resolution stating the City Council's position that corporations are not persons under the constitution for purposes of the regulation of elections, that regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech and supporting limits on corporations' ability to spend money during local and national elections. This version of the resolution is recommended to the full Council for adoption by the Council's Legislative Committee, which consists of Mayor Joan McBride, Deputy Mayor Doreen Marchione and Councilmember Dave Asher.

#### **BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:**

At the September 18, 2012 meeting of the City Council, resident members of Kirkland Move to Amend made a presentation requesting the Council pass a resolution stating that "corporations are not people and money is not free speech." The local Move to Amend members also presented the Council with a petition that included 221 signatures of Kirkland residents (Attachment A) in support of such a resolution.

In the November 12, 2012 issue of the Kirkland Reporter, Kirkland Move to Amend member Bill LaMarche contributed an article titled "Money – free speech and politics" (Attachment B). The on-line version of this article included a survey to collect people's opinions on the notion that "corporations are not people and money is not free speech." The survey ran from November 12 through December 17 and in that time 54 individuals participated in taking the survey.

At Council's September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, Council asked staff to research what municipalities in Washington State have done with regard to passing such a resolution. At that time, staff polled eight cities in King County to determine whether or not those jurisdictions had or had been asked to act on the Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission decision. The cities staff contacted were Auburn, Bellevue, Federal Way, Kent, Redmond, Renton, Seattle and Shoreline. Of the eight cities polled, only the City of Seattle had taken any action by passing a resolution. None of the other cities were aware of the issue, nor had they been asked.

At this point in time, the cities of Bellingham, Coupeville, La Conner, Langley, Olympia, Port Townsend, Seattle and Walla Walla have all passed resolutions. In addition, Island County, Jefferson County and Snohomish County have each passed resolutions.

According to information provided by Kirkland Move to Amend members, the states of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Montana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, Vermont and Rhode Island have passed resolutions.

In June of 2012, the United States Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution (Attachment C) establishing a position that "Corporations should not receive the same legal rights as natural persons do, that money is not speech and that independent expenditures should be regulated."

During the 2011-2012 biennium of the Washington State Legislature, a Joint Memorial was introduced urging Congress to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution for the states' consideration which provides that corporations are not persons under the laws of the United States or any of its jurisdictional subdivisions. However, neither the House (HJM 4005) nor the Senate (SJM 8007) version was passed by Congress. Each were introduced in 2011 and reintroduced in 2012 and reintroduced in all four special sessions throughout the biennium without success.

Supporters of the group Washington Public Campaigns successfully gathered signatures from 60 Washington State legislators on a resolution/letter to the President and Congress (Attachment D). The resolution/letter urges Congress to prepare and send to the states for adoption, a Constitutional amendment that in effect reverses the 2010 Supreme Court's Citizens United decision by clarifying that:

- 1. Only human beings, not corporations, are persons under the United States Constitution.
- 2. Money is not speech and the donation of money to a political campaign is not a form of constitutionally protected speech. Therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

#### Council viewpoints

The Council referred this issue to the Council's Legislative Committee for review and recommendation back to the full Council. Councilmember Nixon offered specific comments to staff to bring to the Committee discussion offering alternative approaches to address this issue. (Attachment E)

Councilmember Nixon communicated that he firmly believes that at least some corporations -- especially non-profit advocacy corporations made up of members who are human beings -- share the collective natural rights of their members, and serve as a way for people who share political viewpoints to pool their resources and amplify their voices in exercising their First Amendment rights.

Councilmember Nixon indicated he could consider a resolution that focused on for-profit corporations, especially multinational corporations whose ownership is not firmly in the USA (the Exxons and GMs of the world), but will strongly oppose any call for squelching the voices of associations of US citizens just because they happen to choose the corporate form of organization. Councilmember Nixon stated that he cannot support a blanket statement saying "corporations are not people" unless it also strongly recognizes that corporations are, in fact, made up of people and that those people do indeed have natural rights that cannot be infringed by government. Councilmember Nixon also commented that he firmly believes that independent expenditures are constitutionally-protected speech and that he agrees with the opinion of the majority in Citizens United in that regard, and would not change it.

Councilmember Nixon wrote that he would also support a resolution calling for improved disclosure of political contributions and independent expenditures such as requiring disclosure of the original source of contributions or independent expenditures, prohibiting the layering of PACs to hide the original source of contributions, requiring all campaign contributions and expenditures to be immediately and fully disclosed online, and eliminating the reporting exemption for contributions under \$200 which is too easily abused to conceal multiple online contributions.

Staff drafted an alternative resolution based on Councilmember Nixon's comments for consideration by the Council's Legislative Committee. The Legislative Committee reviewed and discussed options at their January 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Committee meetings. The Legislative Committee recommended the option that is

presented to the Council today. The alternative draft that was not recommended was provided to Councilmember Nixon.

Attachments: A. Petition to the City of Kirkland requesting a resolution

- B. "Money free speech and politics" article from November 2012 Kirkland Reporter
- C. June 2012 Resolution adopted by the United States Conference of Mayors
- D. Resolution/Letter to the President and Congress signed by 60 Washington Legislators
- E. Councilmember Feedback

Draft Resolution

ATTACHMENT A 9-18-12 cc mtg 6 b (4)

#### CORPORTATIONS ARE NOT PEOPLE

#### MONEY IS NOT FREE SPEECH

Following the January 2010 Supreme Court ruling in Citizens United vs. FEC, we are seeing a huge influx of large sums and often anonymous donations to our political campaigns. We agree that only natural born persons have constitutionally protected rights, and that money is not free speech and can be regulated in its use in influencing the election of any candidate or ballot issue.

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ROGER GOODMAN	338 1024 Ave. KIRKLAND 9803	
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## CORPORATIONS ARE NOT PEOPLE MONEY IS NOT FREE SPEECH

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2 Eric Holtz	716 2nd Sr Kirkland, WA, 9803	46 Hal
3 Kim Convertino	600 14th P.I Kirkland WA 9803	3 JX Canyester
4 Airnee Woolwine	11719 NE 75 MPL, Kirkland 98033	3 Alwaliving
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## CORPORATIONS ARE NOT PEOPLE MONEY IS NOT FREE SPEECH

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## CORPORATIONS ARE NOT PEOPLE MONEY IS NOT FREE SPEECH

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# MOVE TO AMEND



(V)

We, the People of the United States of America, reject the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United, and MOVE TO AMEND our Constitution to firmly establish that money is not speech, and that human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights.

(PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

Full Name .  WI IIIAM L. (Bill) LAMARCHE  Street Address, City, State, Zip  10606 12944 PL NE Kirkland, WA 98033	Phone(s) 425 803 2002	Volunteer Interests
Full Marge AUDREA MCBETH  Street Address, City, State, Zip  10403 NESZY ST ICHEKLAND 9833	Phone(s)	Volunteer Interests
Full Name  AMES GENERAL STEVENSON  Street Address, City, State, Zip  10403 NE52 St. KIRKIAUA WA 98	Phone(s)	Volunteer
Street Address, City, State, Zip 97027 7007 NE 163ch St., Kenmare, WA	Phone(s) 425-488-9151	Volunteer Interesteen
Full Name W. Leonardson Street Address City, State, Zip of St. Kennov CWA	Email navoy. Leonardson Com Phone(s) 425-488-915	Volunteer Interests
Street Address City, State, Zip  12841 NEVEL State, Kinnswisk,	Mary to friend	Volunteer Interests
Street Address, City, State, Zip  15443 AJE 645t. Bellevne WA 9807	Phone(s) 425 503-7500	Volunteer Interests
Street Address, City, State, Zip  709 1915-ST SW Lynnwad	Email antandrade amailan Phone(s) 425-472-6227	Volunteer pinterests
Full Name Street Address, City, State, Zip	Email Phone(s)	Volunteer Interests

To submit completed petitions see: http://MoveToAmend.org/petition

## MOVE TO AMEND



We, the People of the United States of America, reject the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United, and MOVE TO AMEND our Constitution to firmly establish that money is not speech, and that human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights.

#### (PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

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Full Name KENNETH M. LARSON Street Address, City, State, Zip. RM 9Mp - WA - 98034	Email	Volunteer Interests	
Street Address, City, State, Zip. RIPMD -WA - 98034	Phone(s) 425-821-4407		
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To submit completed petitions see: http://MoveToAmend.org/petition

### **CORPORATIONS ARE NOT PEOPLE** MONEY IS NOT FREE SPEECH

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4 Mike Slota	11001 NE 145ThST Kirkland	Dagazi puil la 1/4
5 JAMES MASON	15706 ZET INE SW. BUFIEN 961	18034 Michael W Slots
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9 Sandy Peterson	319 Lake St S. Vithland	Land confirma
o Vesna Undheime	10212 NE 68TH STY 18204	O FATA
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2 / atyanA Avital	223 646 St. S KIRKLAND, 780	1) Loss
3 Kristin Dibel	- 11815 NE 14157 St Kirkland 180	ev KDL
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	ma 6567 - 116 Pl nE Kriklan	a Suche
4 Kathleen More	1 . 0	tet names
5 Kendra Petkau	1 11342 NE 67th St. Kirkland	N fethe
6 Wendy Wolf	PO Box 1295 North Bend	lace
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# CORPORATIONS ARE NOT PEOPLE MONEY IS NOT FREE SPEECH

Following the January 2010 Supreme Court ruling in Citizens United vs. FEC, we are seeing a huge influx of large sums and often anonymous donations to our political campaigns. We agree that only natural born persons have constitutionally protected rights, and that money is not free speech and can be regulated in its use in influencing the election of any candidate or ballot initiative.

Name, please print	Address	Ci.
1 Annie Poulson	9713 112th AVE NE Kirkland, WA 25x133	Signature
2 Rick Duncah	12847 NE 107# PI Kirkled WA	R. So
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Prepared and circulated by a grassroots movement of residents of Kirkland, Washington

Jeanne	Acutanza			
		Kirkland	WA	98033
Kenneth	Albinger	Kirkland	WA	98034
Jenelle	Anderson	Kirkland	WA	98034
Brent	Anderson	Kirkland	WA	98034
Laef	Anderson	Kirkland	WA	98033
Megan	Ayrault	Kirkland	WA	98034
Edward	Barker	Kirkland	WA	98033
L.	Bassett	Kirkland	WA	98034
Daniel	Bennett	Kirkland	WA	98033
Louis	Berner	Kirkland	WA	98034
Dana	Briggs	Kirkland	WA	98033
Bob	Brooks	Kirkland	WA	98034
Emily	Brooks	Kirkland	WA	98033
Allen	Brown	Kirkland	WA	98034
Wendell	Brown	Kirkland	WA	98033
Eydie	Carlson	Kirkland	WA	98034
Alfredo	Carrington	Kirkland	WA	98033
theresa	chambers	Kirkland	WA	98034
Bradley	Clem	Kirkland	WA	98033
G	Climer	Kirkland	WA	98033
Ian	Coletti	Kirkland	WA	98034
Liz	Colson	Kirkland	WA	98034
Neicole	Crepeau	Kirkland	WA	98033
Steven	Dahl	Kirkland	WA	98034
Jacob	Danner	Kirkland	WA	98034
	Davidek-			
Carol	Waller	Kirkland	WA	98033
Eeic	Debolt	Kirkland	WA	98034
Emilie	Doyle	Kirkland	WA	98034
David	Echols	Kirkland	WA	98034
Robert	Edwards	Kirkland	WA	98033
Sher	Emerick	Kirkland	WA	98034
Benjamin	Estacio	Kirkland	WA	98034
Jeffrey	Felbeck	Kirkland	WA	98033
Ann	Fiser	Kirkland	WA	98034
Michael	Fite	Kirkland	WA	98034
James	Fletcher	Kirkland	WA	98033
Matthew	Ford	Kirkland	WA	98033
Deborah	Gervasi	Kirkland	WA	98033
Aydin	Ghajar	Kirkland	WA	98034
Barbara	Gordon	Kirkland	WA	98033
Heather	Greear	Kirkland	WA	98033
David	Gregg	Kirkland	WA	98033
Ann	Grismore	Kirkland	WA	98034
Doug	Grismore	Kirkland	WA	98034
Jerry	Guenser	Kirkland	WA	98033
Corwin	Haeck	Kirkland	WA	98034
Michael	Hagar	Kirkland	WA	98034

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Elizabeth	Hatfield	Kirkland	WA	98034
Geraldine	Haynes	Kirkland	WA	98033
Robert	Haynes	Kirkland	WA	98033
James	Herbold	Kirkland	WA	98034
Nita	Hildenbrand	Kirkland	WA	98034
Steven	Hodge	Kirkland	WA	98033
Paul	Hoefling	Kirkland	WA	98033
Jeff	Hoerth	Kirkland	WA	98034
michael	huffman	Kirkland	WA	98034
Julia	Hungerford	Kirkland	WA	98033
Lee	Hunt	Kirkland	WA	98034
Timothy	Johnson	Kirkland	WA	98033
Lynda	Johnson-Pearl	Kirkland	WA	98034
James	Jordan	Kirkland	WA	98033
Bill	Kellogg	Kirkland	WA	98034
John	Kolbo	Kirkland	WA	98034
Bill	LaMarche	Kirkland	WA	98033
Richard	Laursen	Kirkland	WA	98034
Elaine	Laursen	Kirkland	WA	98034
Loren	Lavinthal	Kirkland	WA	98033
Lionel	Lenoir	Kirkland	WA	98034
Eldon	Leuning	Kirkland	WA	98033
Goergia L	Lockwood	Kirkland	WA	98034
Steven	Mansfield	Kirkland	WA	98034
Curtis	Maslen	Kirkland	WA	98034
Loyceta	Maslen	Kirkland	WA	98034
Andrea	McBeth	Kirkland	WA	98033
John	McCaslin	Kirkland	WA	98033
Phauly	Meas	Kirkland	WA	98034
Harold	Mehrer	Kirkland	WA	98034
Maxwell	Mooney	Kirkland	WA	98033
Mathew	Mooty	Kirkland	WA	98034
patricia	morneau	Kirkland	WA	98033
Stephen	Morrissey	Kirkland	WA	98034
Christian	Morse	Kirkland	WA	98033
Adrienne	Nova	Kirkland	WA	98033
Robert	Osrowske	Kirkland	WA	98033
James	Parzino	Kirkland	WA	98033
Sandra	Patterson	Kirkland	WA	98034
Bradley	Pfau	Kirkland		98034
Warren	Raven	Kirkland		98034
Lucas	Ritting	Kirkland		98034
Elizabeth	Roberts	Kirkland		98034
Paul	Scarpa	Kirkland		98033
Donna	Schill	Kirkland		98034
Sarah	Scott	Kirkland		98034
Robert	Seaborn	Kirkland		98034
pamela	seiffert	Kirkland	WA	98034

Sara	Sfe	Kirkland	WA	98034
Dafna	Shalev	Kirkland	WA	98034
Paul	Sharpe	Kirkland	WA	98034
Steven	Shults	Kirkland	WA	98034
Mike	Silva	Kirkland	WA	98034
Douglas R.	Sloan	Kirkland	WA	98034
Laure	Smith	Kirkland	WA	98033
Daniel	Sullivan	Kirkland	WA	98033
Joey	Sutliff	Kirkland	WA	98033
David	Taruski	Kirkland	WA	98033
Chris	Tchou	Kirkland	WA	98033
KAREn	Tennyson	Kirkland	WA	98033
Anastasia	Tietje	Kirkland	WA	98034
James	Truhan	Kirkland	WA	98034
tyler	udy	Kirkland	WA	98034
Karlie	Valdez	Kirkland	WA	98033
David	Vicklund	Kirkland	WA	98034
Andrew	Vort	Kirkland	WA	98034
Mark	Vossler	Kirkland	WA	98034
brandy	westmore	Kirkland	WA	98033
Nancy	Wiley	Kirkland	WA	98034
Daniel	Wilson	Kirkland	WA	98034
Lisa	Winters	Kirkland	WA	98034
Steve	Wise	Kirkland	WA	98034

## KIRKLANDREPORTER

By BILL LAMARCHE
Kirkland Reporter Contributor
NOVEMBER 12, 2012 · 3:13 PM

Undisclosed donors giving enormous amounts to political campaigns under the cover of "free speech" have effectively destroyed the concept of "one person, one vote" in today's political arena.

More than 80 percent of Americans want limits to the amount of money that individuals, corporations and membership organizations can give to political campaigns, and more than two-thirds want to do away with Super PACs altogether.

Candidates, initiatives and referendums that traditionally enjoyed "grassroots" support from their constituencies are now completely overwhelmed by cash infusions from "big money" entities, such as wealthy individuals, corporations, membership organizations, PACs and Super PACs.

By far the biggest abuse has been created by the 501(c)(4) "Social Welfare" entities that are charged, in order to maintain their tax exempt status, with spending the majority of their collected funds on "charitable, educational and recreational" endeavors. Individuals, corporations, membership entities, etc. can avoid the legal "donor's rules" by contributing unlimited amounts to the 501(c)(4) who in turn can spend unlimited amounts on political campaigns as long as they are not "coordinated" with the campaign process.

Rules governing this process are weak at best and violations of "intent" are obvious. Donors going through this SuperPAC 501(c)(4) "tunnel" do not have to have their names disclosed, so voters have little or no knowledge of who is promoting a candidate, initiative or referendum, or of their agendas.

SuperPACs allow special interests and a small, privileged minority to quiet the voices of the majority of voters with dramatic amounts of cash and thereby dominate our political process. Did you know that:

- 93 percent of funds raised by SuperPACs in 2011 came from contributions of more than \$10,000 and from just 23 out of every 10 million people in the US population!
- More than half of SuperPAC money came from just 37 people giving over \$500,000 each!
- Spending by outside groups has quadrupled with 72 percent of political advertising spending coming from sources previously prohibited!
- Wealthy donors generally do not want their names, companies or organizations identified because they fear political, economic, member or shareholder reprisals regarding their contributions, thus utilizing the SuperPAC tunnel where no disclosure is required!

Undisclosed and largely out of state donations of significant size are evident in Washington State in the races for governor, senator, house, attorney general – and on the key initiatives and referendums.

This is a national and local Kirkland issue. Our voting power is diminished. Presentations, with more than 350 Kirkland resident petition signatures, have been made to the Kirkland City Council (a group known for good ethics) requesting passage of a municipal resolution stating that (1) "Corporations are not People", and (2) "Money is not an expression of Free Speech." The request is under study and a decision is expected within the next two months – a decision surely to test political capital within the council. A decision favoring the resolution would join Kirkland with Bellingham, Seattle, Olympia, Port Townsend, Port Angeles, Auburn, Friday Harbor, Southworth and act in concert with other resolutions being pursued in Tacoma, San Juan County, Clallam County and at the Washington State level itself.

Kirkland and Washington state would join more than 300 similar efforts across the country at both municipal and state levels. A favorable resolution is endorsed by the Washington state Democrats.

So, do we (Kirkland) want our local, state and national politics to be controlled by a very, very small minority of wealthy individuals, corporations, membership organizations and PACs/SuperPACs (many from out of state), whose only real goal is to influence political campaign outcomes? I think and hope not!

Here are some things you can do to make the citizen's voice count!

Call and write letters to each of the Kirkland City Council members to encourage them to pass the resolution and speak out as a municipality that corporations are not people and money is not an expression of free speech – and to require full disclosure of donor names and amounts donated.

Write letters to the editor of the Kirkland Reporter encouraging them to endorse the resolution that corporations are not people and money is not an expression of free speech – and to require full disclosure of donor names and amounts donated.

Go to the Kirkland Reporter website at www.kirklandreporter.com and participate in the survey on "Money in Politics," the results of which will be published in a later issue and delivered to our city council.

Should we let a small minority of undisclosed wealthy entities determine who wins elections? Do we doubt that fact that "winning" candidates in these circumstances owe allegiance to their hidden donors rather than to their constituencies? The answers are simply "no."

Bill LaMarche is a Kirkland resident.



## ESTABLISH AS A POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS THAT CORPORATIONS SHOULD NOT RECEIVE THE SAME LEGAL RIGHTS AS NATURAL PERSONS DO, THAT MONEY IS NOT SPEECH AND THAT INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES SHOULD BE REGULATED

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights are intended to protect the rights of individual human beings also known as "natural persons"; and

WHEREAS, corporations can and do make important contributions to our society, but the United States Conference of Mayors does not consider them natural persons; and

WHEREAS, the right to free speech is a fundamental freedom and unalienable right and free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective self-governance; and

WHEREAS, United States Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black in a 1938 opinion stated, "I do not believe the word 'person' in the Fourteenth Amendment includes corporations"; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Supreme Court held in *Buckley v. Valeo* (1976) that the appearance of corruption justified limits on contribution to candidates, but rejected other fundamental interests that the United States Conference of Mayors finds compelling such as creating a level playing field and ensuring that all citizens, regardless of wealth, have an opportunity to have their political views heard; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in *Buckley* overturned limits on independent expenditures because it found that the corruption or perception of corruption rationale was only applicable to direct contributions to candidates; and,

WHEREAS, United States Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens observed in Nixon v. Shrink Missouri Government PAC (2000) that "money is property, it is not speech,"; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court recognized in *Austin v. Michigan Chamber of Commerce* (1990) the threat to a republican form of government posed by "the corrosive and distorting effects of immense aggregations of wealth that are accumulated with the help of the corporate form and that have little or no correlation to the public's support for the corporations political ideas" and upheld limits on independent expenditures by corporations; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in Citizens United v. The Federal Election Commission (2010) reversed the decision in Austin, allowing unlimited corporate spending to influence elections, candidate selection, policy decisions and sway votes; and

WHEREAS, prior to Citizens United decision unlimited independent campaign expenditures could be made by individuals and associations, though such committees operated under federal contribution limits; and,

WHEREAS, given that the *Citizens United* decision "rejected the argument that political speech of corporations or other associations should be treated differently" because the First Amendment "generally prohibits the suppression of political speech based on the speaker's identity," there is a need to broaden the corruption rationale for campaign finance reform to facilitate regulation of independent expenditures regardless of the source of the money for this spending, for or against a candidate; and

WHEREAS, a February 2010 Washington Post-ABC News poll found that 80 percent of Americans oppose the U.S. Supreme Court Citizens United ruling; and,

WHEREAS, the opinion of the four dissenting justices in *Citizens United* noted that corporations have special advantages not enjoyed by natural persons, such as limited liability, perpetual life, and favorable treatment of the accumulation and distribution of assets; and

WHEREAS, corporations are legally required to put profits for shareholders ahead of concerns for the greatest good of society while individual shareholders as natural persons balance their narrow self-interest and broader public interest when making political decisions; and

WHEREAS, addressing both the Citizens United decision, and corporate personhood is necessary; and

WHEREAS, the City Councils of Missoula, Montana; Boulder, Colorado; and Madison, Wisconsin have referred the issue of corporate personhood to their communities for advisory vote.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it is the position of the United States Conference of Mayors that corporations should not receive the same legal rights as individual human beings (also known as "natural persons") do; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the United States Conference of Mayors also determines that the most urgent action needed is to reverse the impacts of United States Supreme Court *Citizens United (2010)* decision and the door it opens for unlimited independent campaign expenditures by corporations that contributes to the undermining impacts that "corporate personhood" has on free and fair elections and effective self-governance: and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the United States Conference of Mayors calls on other communities and jurisdictions and organizations like National League of Cities to join with us in this action by passing similar Resolutions.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED JUNE 2012

The following is excerpted from a post on the Washington Liberals website

#### The Salins Resolution to overturn Citizens United makes headway

by Don Smith on November 2nd, 2012 at 10:23 am
Posted In: Elections, Citizens United, Economics, Corporations, Justice, Courts, Justice, Politics, Washington State Politics

Below is the text of a resolution signed by 60 Washington State legislators, plus 8 candidates. The letter calls on the US Congress to end corporate personhood and to overturn Citizens United.

At the end of this article is the list of signers of the resolution... Please thank the legislators who have signed and please contact the ones who haven't signed and ask them to sign.

This initiative is largely the work of Washington Public Campaigns, whose director, Craig Salins, recently passed away unexpectedly. (The resolution is called "The Salins Resolution" in his honor).

TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND TO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

As members of the Washington State Legislature, we seek to nurture and expand democracy in our state and in our nation. Free and fair elections are essential to American democracy and effective self-governance. The granting of constitutional protections to non-natural corporate 'persons' threatens the rights of living, breathing persons to have their voices heard. Corporations should not have a constitutionally protected right to donate unregulated amounts of money to campaigns.

Corporations are legal entities separate and apart from human beings. They can and should be given specific legal rights by Federal, State, and local law, but not the rights of natural, living, breathing persons which are enumerated in the Constitution.

In light of these facts, we, the undersigned members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Washington, respectfully urge Congress to prepare and send to the states for adoption, a Constitutional amendment that in effect reverses the 2010 Supreme Court's Citizens United decision by clarifying that:

- 1. Only human beings, not corporations, are persons under the United States Constitution.
- 2. Money is not speech and the donation of money to a political campaign is not a form of constitutionally protected speech. Therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

Yours Respectfully,	
Signature	
Legislative District, State of Washington	
Date Signed	
Print name	

# Washington State Legislative Resolution Calling on U.S. Congress to pass a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United & end corporate personhood

**UPDATE BY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS: November 1, 2012** 

Legis. District	Signed Letter to U.S. Congress	Candidate Statement Signed
11	Rep. Zack Hudgins Rep. Bob Hasegawa	
33	Sen. Karen Keiser Rep. Dave Upthegrove Rep. Tina Orwall	
34	Sen. Sharon Nelson Rep. Eileen Cody Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon	İ
36	Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson Rep. Reuven Carlyle	Gael Tarleton
37	Sen. Adam Kline Rep. Eric Pettigrew Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos	
43	Sen. Ed Murray Rep. Frank Chopp	
46	Sen. David Frockt Rep. Gerry Pollet Phyllis Gutierrez-Kenney	Jessyn Farrell Sarajane Siegfriedt Sylvester Cann
	LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS OUTSIDE OF SEATTLE	
1	Rep. Luis Moscoso Rep. Derek Stanford	
3	Rep. Andy Billig Rep. Timm Ormsby	
10	Sen. Mary Margaret Haugen	
17	Rep. Tim Probst	İ
21	Sen. Paul Shin Rep. Mary Helen Roberts Rep. Marko Liias	İ
22	Sen. Karen Fraser Rep. Sam Hunt Rep. Chris Reykdal	İ
23	Sen. Christine Rolfes Rep. Sherry Appleton Rep. Drew Hansen	
24	Sen. James Hargrove Rep. Steve Tharinger Rep. Kevin Van De Wege	
25	Sen. Jim Kastama	Bill Hilton (Rep)
27	Rep. Laurie Jinkins Rep. Jeannie Darneille	
28	Tami Green	Yoshie Wong (Sen) Eric Choiniere (Rep)
30	Rep. Mark Miloscia	
32	Sen. Maralyn Chase Rep. Cindy Ryu Rep. Ruth Kagi	
38	Sen. Nick Harper Rep. Mike Sells Rep. John McCoy	
40	Sen. Kevin Ranker Rep. Jeff Morris Rep. Kristine Lytton	Howard Pellett
41	Rep. Marcie Maxwell Rep. Judy Clibborn	
44	Sen. Steve Hobbs Rep. Hans Dunshee	
45	Rep. Roger Goodman Rep. Larry Springer	
48	Sen. Rodney Tom	
49	Sen. Craig Pridemore Rep. Jim Moeller	

From: Toby Nixon
To: City Council

Cc: <u>Kurt Triplett; Marilynne Beard; Robin Jenkinson; Lorrie McKay</u>

Subject: RE: Move to Amend Kirkland

**Date:** Sunday, December 30, 2012 8:32:43 PM

Nobody should assume from the email below that I support the proposal of the Move To Amend group or any of the various texts they've provided. In my opinion, what they propose is a huge over-reaction. There is nothing in the *Citizens United* decision that grants to corporations all the natural rights of human beings. Corporations are creatures of government, not natural persons, and are given only the enumerated rights and powers granted to them by statute.

The law must, however, recognize that corporations are made up of human beings -- members, stockholders, directors, officers, employees. The constitutionally-guaranteed right of freedom of assembly allows groups of individuals to join together and pool their resources, thereby amplifying their constitutionally-guaranteed rights of free speech and to petition their government, and to seek to more effectively influence elections and legislation. This includes membership corporations, such as labor unions and groups focused on particular topics such as the NRA. It is the *people* who make up a corporation who are doing their rights, not the corporation as some detached amorphous entity. Corporations are not inherently evil or to be feared by virtue of their being incorporated, any more so than any other group of people. The broad, sweeping constitutional amendment sought by Move To Amend could interfere with the very real rights of individual citizens to join their voices together and take political action. Because of this, I have told Move To Amend that I cannot and will not support most of what they're asking for, and will in fact oppose it if it comes before the council.

What I could support as a resolution of the council would be a call for improved disclosure of political contributions, including independent expenditures. I would support calling on Congress to amend federal election laws to require that the *original source* of contributions be disclosed for any campaign contributions or independent expenditures, as we recently enacted in Washington state (SB 5021 (2011), sponsored by Sen. Pridemore in response to the actions of Moxie Media in the campaign against Sen. Jean Berkey in 2010, prohibiting the layering of PACs to hide the original source of contributions). I would support calling on Congress to require all campaign contributions and expenditures to be immediately and fully disclosed online, without the up-to-three-months delay that currently exists due to FEC reporting schedules, and eliminating the reporting exemption for contributions under \$200 which is too easily abused to conceal multiple online contributions.

I did not ask the Move To Amend folks to send us more examples of the "corporations are not people" resolution, because I don't support that. I asked them to find examples of resolutions calling on Congress to increase campaign disclosure, and send us those. They appear to have misunderstood what I asked for, as none of what they've sent has to do with improved disclosure. Perhaps our staff could write or find examples of a resolution such as I suggest above, asking Congress to improve disclosure in federal elections and catch up with what we do in Washington state. Before they do that, though, we probably need to have further council discussion and see if we have consensus to give specific direction.

Best regards,

-- Toby

P.S. I should add that I do not support the notion that "there's too much money in politics". On the contrary, we spend more every year in the USA on *potato chips* than we do on political campaigns *at all levels*, from dog catcher to president. Which is more important? If one dislikes certain speech, the proper response is to encourage more speech, not try to supress the unpopular speech. This will sound controversial, but my preference would be to eliminate limits on contributions to political candidates, and somehow prohibit the separate unlimited "independent expenditures" by requiring all spending on a campaign to go through the official campaign committees. That way, the official

campaign committees and the candidates themselves could be held accountable for the content of their advertising, instead of being able to disclaim responsibility for "independent" expenditures that they "don't control" (which is largely a fiction anyway). Making candidates responsible for how money is spent to support them or attack their opponent, coupled with full and immediate online disclosure of the original source of campaign contributions, would do a lot more to clean up campaigns than any of the Move To Amend proposals.

P.P.S. Of course, we could always just decline to take any action at all.

Toby Nixon | Council Member | City of Kirkland, Washington <a href="mailto:thixon@kirklandwa.gov">thixon@kirklandwa.gov</a> | www.kirklandwa.gov</a> | V: +1 425 587 3536 | M: +1 206 790 6377 | F: +1 425 650 7999

From: MTA Kirkland [mtakirkland@gmail.com] Sent: Sunday, December 30, 2012 7:27 PM

To: Joan McBride; Doreen Marchione; Bob Sternoff; Penny Sweet; Toby Nixon; Amy Walen; Dave Asher

Subject: Move to Amend Kirkland

Dear Council Members,

First we would like to thank all of you for your time and consideration over the past several months. We have found each of you to be helpful and receptive to us as your constituents.

We have recently met with some of you and have appointments with others in the near future. When we met with Councilman Nixon, he expressed concern regarding the wording in the some of the resolutions being passed throughout the country in opposition to the Citizens United decision. We offered to send him some of the various documents, and he suggested that we send them to each of you.

We have selected several different resolutions, the initiative that was passed by statewide ballot in Montana last November, and the measure as it appeared on the ballot in Colorado, also last November. The ballot measures each passed with an overwhelming majority of 75% and 74% respectively.

We hope this will supply some helpful information to move the City of Kirkland forward in on this very important issue.

Again, thank you for your time and commitment to our community, and we wish you all a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Bill LaMarche Geoffrey Stevenson Andrea McBeth Move to Amend Kirkland

Council Meeting: 02/19/2013 Agenda: Unfinished Business

Item #: 10. b.

#### RESOLUTION R-4967

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND STATING THE CITY COUNCIL'S POSITION THAT CORPORATIONS ARE NOT PERSONS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION FOR PURPOSES OF THE REGULATION OF ELECTIONS, THAT REGULATING POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND SPENDING IS NOT EQUIVALENT TO LIMITING POLITICAL SPEECH, AND SUPPORTING LIMITS ON CORPORATIONS' ABILITY TO SPEND MONEY DURING LOCAL AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

WHEREAS, allowing corporations the same political speech protections as those afforded to individuals results in unlimited corporate spending to influence campaigns and elections;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Kirkland as follows:

<u>Section 1</u>. Only human beings, not corporations, are persons under the United States Constitution for the purposes of the regulation of elections.

<u>Section 2</u>. Money is not speech, and the donation of money to a political campaign is not a form of constitutionally protected speech; therefore, regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

<u>Section 3</u>. The U.S. Congress and Washington State Legislature are urged to take action to correct the current unbridled ability of corporations to spend money during local and national elections.

meetin	Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open g this day of February, 2013.
2013.	Signed in authentication thereof this day of February,
	MAYOR
Attest:	

City Clerk