

Dear elected officials,

I am glad that you heard me out on this issue and will continue to do your own research into the topic before your next board meeting. Below are a few good links on what *Citizens United v. FEC (2010)*, the case in question, is and how it affects the American idea of a democratic-republic. I hope that you would look through these links as well as conduct your own research to see how serious this problem of corporate personhood has become. I hope that you vote in the best interest of your constituents, Michiganders, and Americans as a whole.

By supporting this resolution, you are telling the elected state officials in Michigan that you and your constituents support amending the constitution in the field of campaign finance reform and the role of money in politics in general. It would then fall upon the State Representative VerHeulen and/or State Senator MacGregor to pursue creating a state resolution and sending it to the Michigan delegation in Congress.

Please email me at [amendmichigan@gmail.com](mailto:amendmichigan@gmail.com) to confirm that this resolution will be on your next board meeting agenda and feel free to email me or call at 616-406-5031 if you have any questions regarding money in politics, the Article V amendment process, or anything else and I will see what information I can dig up to make us both better informed.

Thank you,  
Eric-John Szczepaniak

<http://democracyisforpeople.org/>

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2010/rpt/2010-R-0124.htm>

<https://www.oyez.org/cases/2008/08-205>

<http://www.alternet.org/10-supreme-court-rulings-turned-corporations-people>

<https://www.oyez.org/cases/1989/88-1569>

In 2010 the Supreme Court overruled their earlier ruling in *Austin v. Michigan Chamber of Commerce* (1990) to allow unlimited sums of money into the political arena.

Here is the entire AJR 22 from the State of California

California - Assembly Joint Resolution 22

“WHEREAS, The protections afforded by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution to the people of our nation are fundamental to our democracy; and

WHEREAS, The First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not corporations; and

WHEREAS, Corporations are not people but, instead, are entities created by the laws of states and nations; and

WHEREAS, For the past three decades, a divided United States Supreme Court has transformed the First Amendment into a powerful tool for corporations seeking to evade and invalidate democratically enacted reforms; and

WHEREAS, This corporate misuse of the First Amendment and the United States Constitution reached an extreme conclusion in the United States Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010) 130 S.Ct. 876; and

WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations from spending their general treasury funds in our elections; and

WHEREAS, The opinion of the four dissenting justices in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* 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, that allow them to spend prodigious sums on campaign messages that have little or no correlation with the beliefs held by natural persons; and

WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* will now unleash a torrent of corporate money in our political process unmatched by any campaign

expenditure totals in United States history; and

WHEREAS, Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission purports to invalidate state laws and state constitutional provisions separating corporate money from elections; and

WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission represents a serious and direct threat to our democracy; and

WHEREAS, The general public and political leaders in the United States have recognized, since the founding of our country, that the interests of corporations do not always correspond with the public interest and that, *and*, therefore, the political influence of corporations should be limited; and

WHEREAS, In 1816, Thomas Jefferson wrote, "I hope we shall ... crush in its] birth the aristocracy of our monied corporations which dare already to challenge our government to a trial of strength and bid defiance to the laws of our country"; and

WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution empowers and obligates the people and states of the United States of America to use the constitutional amendment process to correct those egregiously wrong decisions of the United States Supreme Court that go to the heart of our democracy and republican form of self-government; and

WHEREAS, Notwithstanding the decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, legislators have a duty to protect democracy and guard against the potentially detrimental effects of corporate spending in local, state, and federal elections; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully disagrees with the majority opinion and decision of the United States Supreme Court in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California calls upon the United States Congress to propose and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission and to restore constitutional rights and fair elections to the people; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States."

16 other states have already adopted resolutions calling for the Congress to overturn Citizens United through an amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Hawaii, New Mexico, Vermont, Maryland, Rhode Island, California, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Montana, Colorado, West Virginia, Maine, Illinois, Delaware, and Oregon

Approximately 550 municipalities have now supported overturning Citizens United

Findings show that more than 85 percent of unregulated independent expenditures made by the 15 biggest outside groups in the 2012 election cycle financed negative messages.

In addition, 21 other states have legislation pending that calls for an amendment to dissolve corporate personhood and restore the rights of the citizens

Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin

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Resolved, that the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ calls upon our Michigan state legislators to call for a state resolution to the United States Congress to propose and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission and to restore constitutional rights and fair elections to the people; and be it further

Resolved, that the Clerk for the \_\_\_\_\_ transmit copies of this resolution to the State Senator for the 28th District, the State Representative for the 74th House District, the Majority Leader of the Michigan House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the Michigan House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Michigan Senate, and the Minority Leader of the Michigan Senate.