



BALLOT MEASURE SUBMITTAL FORM

Official Use Only: Date Stamp

BALLOT MEASURE QUESTION

Jurisdiction Name: **City of Berkeley**

Election Date: **11/4/2014**

Note: The information as it appears within the measure question text box will be printed on the ballot.

Insert ballot question text here:

Should the United States Constitution be amended to abolish the legal concept that corporations are persons that are entitled to constitutional rights, and the doctrine that the expenditure of money may be treated as speech?

TYPE OF MEASURE

Regular Measure Bond Measure

PERCENTAGE NEEDED TO PASS

% 50+1 (Majority)

FULL TEXT OPTION

Full Text to be printed in the Voter Information Pamphlet:

YES (*note: must submit separate copy of Full Text along with this form*)

NO - A Full Text was not submitted

NO - Do not print, but it's accessible at: _____

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

Print Name: **Mark Numainville**

Date: **July 10, 2014**

Signature: 

CONTACT INFORMATION (for office use)

CONTACT INFORMATION (for public)

Phone #: 

Phone #: **510-981-6900**

E-Mail: 

E-Mail/Website: **elections@cityofberkeley.info**

Ballot Question

Should the United States Constitution be amended to abolish the legal concept that corporations can be considered persons for purposes of the First Amendment, and the doctrine that the expenditure of money may be treated as speech?

City Attorney's Impartial Analysis

The proposed measure, if adopted, would call for an amendment to United States Constitution to abolish the legal concept that corporations can be considered persons that are entitled to constitutional rights, and the doctrine that the expenditure of money may be treated as speech.

This proposed ordinance was placed on the ballot by the City Council.

/s/ ZACH COWAN
Berkeley City Attorney

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE P

Argument in Favor of Constitutional Amendment to Abolish Corporate Personhood

The Supreme Court's decision in Buckley vs. Valeo (1976) established the concept that "money equals speech".

The Court's decision in Citizen's United vs. Federal Elections (2010) gave corporations the same rights and protections under the U.S. Constitution as human persons.

The 5-4 Supreme Court decision specified that donating unlimited money on campaigns should be considered free speech. As a result, large corporations have undue influence over who gets elected, what laws are passed, what is in our food and water and air. Granting corporations the status of a legal "person" effectively re-writes the constitution to serve corporate interests as though they were human interests, without requiring any of the responsibilities of personhood.

Do you think money should be considered the same as speech?

Do you think corporations are entitled to the same rights and protections as human beings, without any of the responsibilities?

Don't let our privilege and power as citizens be undermined.

VOTE YES on P to send a clear message to our representatives to pass an Amendment to the Constitution to abolish "corporate personhood."

Defend democracy. **Yes on Measure P**

s/Emily Rusch
Executive Director, CALPIRG

s/Taylor Joseph Ward
CALPIRG Students Campaign Coordinator

s/Kriss Worthington
Berkeley City Council District 7

s/Susan Wengraf
Berkeley City Council

s/Gordon Wozniak
Berkeley City Council

No Argument Against was submitted