

<p>Amherst Passed 5/7/2012</p>	<p>(text from town meeting warrant; passage confirmed by Amherst initiative contact person)</p> <p>ARTICLE 28 – Reversing Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission</p> <p>WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not corporations;</p> <p>WHEREAS, Corporations are not people but instead are entities created by the law of states and nations;</p> <p>WHEREAS, this corporate takeover of the First Amendment has reached its extreme conclusion in the United States Supreme Court’s ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission;</p> <p>WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court’s ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations from spending their general treasury funds in our elections;</p> <p>WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court’s ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission has unleashed a torrent of corporate money in our political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in United States history;</p> <p>WHEREAS, the people of the United States have previously used 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 self-government;</p> <p>Now be it resolved that the Town of Amherst, Massachusetts, hereby calls upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to reverse Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission and to restore constitutional rights and fair elections to the people.</p> <p>And be it further resolved that the Massachusetts Legislature be urged to call upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to reverse Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission and to restore constitutional rights and fair elections to the people.</p> <p>Now be it further resolved that the Town Clerk be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Sen. John F. Kerry and Sen. Scott P. Brown, Congressman John W. Olver, Massachusetts State Senator Stanley Rosenberg, and Massachusetts State Representative Ellen Story.</p>
<p>Arlington Passed 5/16/2012</p>	<p>(text from town meeting warrant, passage confirmed by Arlington initiative contact person)</p> <p>ARTICLE 73 – Resolution / US Supreme Court Decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission</p> <p>To see if the Town will vote to adopt a resolution regarding the US Supreme Court decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission; or take any action related thereto. (Text of the resolution not included in warrant, need to obtain from activist.)</p>
<p>Aquinnah Passed 5/8/2012</p>	<p>(text from town meeting warrant, passage confirmed by Aquinnah initiative contact person; same text as Edgartown, Oak Bluffs, Chilmark)</p> <p>Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Selectmen to communicate to the Massachusetts State Senate and House the support of the citizens of the town of Aquinnah for Senate Bill 772, Restoring Free Speech, which reads as follows: [text of state S.772 follows as part of the resolution]</p>

Ashfield
Passed 5/5/2012

(from town meeting warrant; passage confirmed by Ashfield initiative contact person)

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to support the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights are intended to protect the rights of individual human beings ("real people"); and

WHEREAS, corporations are not mentioned in the Constitution and The People have never granted constitutional rights to corporations;

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission presents a serious threat to self-government by allowing unlimited corporate spending to influence elections;

WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution empowers and obligates the people of the United States of America to use the constitutional amendment process to correct egregiously wrong decisions of the United States Supreme Court that go to the heart of our democracy:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the voters of Ashfield, Massachusetts hereby instruct the senators representing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the member of the United States House of Representatives representing this congressional district to propose, and our state legislators to ratify, an amendment to the United States Constitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the constitutional rights of real people and that money is not speech for purposes of campaign-related expenditures and contributions.

Bernardston
Passed 6/7/2012

(text from town meeting warrant, passage confirmed by Bernardston initiative contact person)

Article 45: A RESOLUTION THAT CORPORATIONS ARE NOT 'NATURAL' PEOPLE AND THAT MONEY DOES NOT EQUATE TO FREE SPEECH. (Non-binding)

To see if the Town will vote to instruct our members of Congress to support an amendment to the United States Constitution to clarify that corporations do not have the same rights as people and that money is not speech for purposes of election-related spending, and/or take any action relative thereto.

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights are intended to protect the rights of individual human beings ("real People"); and,

WHEREAS, corporations are not mentioned in the Constitution and The People have never granted constitutional rights to corporations; and,

WHEREAS, the United State Supreme Court in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission presents a serious threat to self-government by allowing unlimited corporate spending to influence elections; and,

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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the voters of Bernardston, Massachusetts hereby instruct the Senators representing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the members of the United States House of Representatives representing this Congressional District to propose, and our state legislators to ratify an amendment to the United States Constitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the constitutional rights of real people and that money is not speech for purposes of campaign-related expenditures and contributions.

The text of the proposed amendment is as follows:

Amendment

Section 1. [A corporation is not a person and can be regulated]

The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only.

Artificial entities, such as corporations, limited liability companies, and other entities, established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state shall have no rights under this Constitution and are subject to regulation by the People, through Federal, State, or local law.

The Privileges of artificial entities shall be determined by the People, through Federal, State, or local law, and shall not be construed to be inherent or inalienable.

Section 2. [Money is not speech and can be regulated]

Federal, State and local government shall regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures, including a candidate's own contributions and expenditures, for the purpose of influencing in any way the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure.

Federal, State and local government shall require that any permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed.

The judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to influence elections to be speech under the First Amendment.

Section 3.

Nothing contained in this amendment shall be construed to abridge the freedom of the press.

Boston
Passed 2/29/2012

(text and confirmation of passage from City Council meeting minutes)

CITY OF BOSTON – RESOLUTION URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO PASS S.772, RESTORING FREE SPEECH

WHEREAS, On January 21, 2010 the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision held that corporations and unions can spend unlimited amounts of money advocating the election or defeat of candidates for office; and

WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. FED, overturned longstanding precedents prohibiting corporations from spending their general treasury funds in public elections; and

WHEREAS, This decision allows huge multinational corporations (including foreign-based corporations) to spend millions of dollars to influence our elections and thus our policy; and

WHEREAS, We hold a firm belief that the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not corporations; and

WHEREAS, This ruling is a serious and direct threat to our democracy, the conduct of free and fair elections, and will dwarf the power and influence of everyday citizens; and

WHEREAS, The people of the United States have previously used the constitutional amendment process to correct decisions of the United States Supreme Court that invade or invalidate democratic institutions, including elections; and

WHEREAS, The State Legislature is considering a Resolution (S.772) calling on Congress to pass and send to the state for ratification a Constitutional Amendment allowing Congress the right to revoke corporations' to spend unlimited funds to influence elections.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Boston City Council go on record in support of the Legislature's efforts to restore free speech and fair elections to individuals and urges the State Legislature to pass S.772.

Boxborough
Passed 5/17/2012

(text from town meeting warrant and confirmation of passage from Boxborough initiative contact person)

ARTICLE 37. RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PASSAGE OF A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROVIDING THAT CORPORATIONS ARE NOT ENTITLED TO THE SAME RIGHTS AS ANTURAL PERSONS

Resolution opposing the United States Supreme Court's interpretation of the Constitution in Citizens United regarding the constitutional rights of corporations, supporting an amendment to the Constitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the entirety of protections or "rights" of natural persons, specifically so that the expenditure of corporate money to influence the electoral process is no longer a form of constitutionally protected speech, and calling on Congress to begin the process of amending the Constitution.

Whereas, In 2010 the United States Supreme Court issued its decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, holding that independent spending on elections by corporations and other groups could not be limited by government regulations; and

Whereas, This decision rolled back the legal restrictions on corporate spending in the electoral process, allowing for unlimited corporate spending to influence elections, candidate selection, and policy decisions; and

Whereas, In reaching its decision, a majority of the Supreme Court, relying on prior decisions, interpreted the First Amendment of the Constitution to afford corporations the same free speech protections as natural persons; and

Whereas, In his eloquent dissent, Justice John Paul Stevens rightly recognized that "corporations have no consciences, no beliefs, no feelings, no thoughts, no desires. Corporations help structure and facilitate the activities of human beings, to be sure, and their 'personhood' often serves as a useful legal fiction. But they are not themselves members of 'We the People' by whom and for whom our Constitution was established". Justice Stevens further recognized that "In the context of election to public office, the distinction between corporate and human speakers is significant. Although they make enormous contributions to our society, corporations are not actually members of it. They cannot vote or run for office. Because they may be managed and controlled by nonresidents, their interests may conflict in fundamental respects with the interests of eligible voters. The financial resources, legal structure, and instrumental orientation of corporations raise legitimate concerns about their role in the electoral process. Our lawmakers have a compelling constitutional basis, if not also a democratic duty, to take measures designed to guard against the potentially deleterious effects of corporate spending in local and national races"; and

Whereas, The Court's decision in Citizens United severely hampers the ability of federal, state and local governments to enact reasonable campaign finance reforms and regulations regarding corporate political activity; and

Whereas, Corporations should not be afforded the entirety of protections or "rights" of natural persons, such that the expenditure of corporate money to influence the electoral process is a form of constitutionally protected speech; and

Whereas, several proposed amendments to the Constitution have been introduced in Congress that would allow governments to regulate the raising and spending of money by corporations to influence elections; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Town of Boxborough opposes the Supreme Court's interpretation of the Constitution in Citizens United regarding the constitutional rights of corporations, and supports amending the Constitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the entirety of protections or "rights" of natural persons, specifically so that the expenditure of corporate money to influence the electoral process is no longer a form of constitutionally protected speech, and calls on Congress to begin the process of amending the Constitution.

Summary

This resolution would direct the Board of Selectmen to send a letter to our Congressional Delegation in Washington opposing the United State Supreme Court's interpretation of the Constitution in Citizens United regarding the constitutional rights of corporations, supporting an amendment to the Constitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the entirety of protections or "rights" of natural persons, specifically so that the expenditure

of corporate money to influence the electoral process is no longer a form of constitutionally protected speech, and calling on Congress to begin the process of amending the Constitution.

(This article is patterned after the resolution that was passed by New York City Council.)

Brewster
Passed 5/3/2011

(from town meeting warrant, minutes of meeting confirm passage)

ARTICLE NO. 35:

We, the voters of the Brewster Town Meeting, affirm our belief that the first Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not corporations.

We believe that the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. FEC, which overturned longstanding precedents prohibiting corporations from spending their general treasury funds in public elections, is a serious and direct threat to our democracy and the conduct of free and fair elections, and permits corporations to drown out the voices of ordinary persons.

The people of the United States have previously used the constitutional amendment process to correct decisions of the United States Supreme Court that invade or invalidate democratic institutions, including elections.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the voters of the Brewster Town Meeting, call upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to restore the first amendment and fair elections to the people, and further, we call upon the Massachusetts General Court to pass one or more resolutions asking for those actions.

A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the State and Federal Representatives and Senators serving Brewster and to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the President of the United States.

SUMMARY

On Jan 21, 2010 the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision held that corporations and unions can spend unlimited amounts of money advocating the election or defeat of candidates for office. This decision allows huge multinational corporations (including foreign-based corporations) to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to influence United States' elections, dwarfing the resources of unions, individuals and public-interest groups, and potentially allowing corporations to cause the election of candidates who will serve them, not people.

The Supreme Court was wrong to allow corporations, created and run to make profits, to drown out the voices of human beings in political campaigns. In a democracy, the people rule, and the only way to overrule this decision is by amending the United States Constitution.

This non-binding resolution asks that Congress pass and send to the states for ratification a Constitutional Amendment allowing Congress the right to revoke corporations' right to spend unlimited funds to influence elections, and supports Massachusetts legislative efforts to bring that about. It would not affect the free-speech rights of human beings, including corporate officials, to advocate and spend money for their political goals.

Brookline
Passed 5/29/2012

(text from town meeting warrant, passage confirmed by Brookline resolution initiative contact)

ARTICLE 29

To see if the Town will adopt the following resolution:

Resolution concerning a constitutional amendment to reverse Citizens United and control the influence of money in elections

WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was intended to protect the free speech rights of people, not corporations, which are entities created by the laws of states and nations;

WHEREAS, the public has a compelling public interest in preventing corruption and the appearance of corruption among elected officials;

WHEREAS, during 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;

WHEREAS, this corporate misuse of the First Amendment has reached its extreme conclusion in the Supreme Court's recent ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, overturning longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations from spending their general treasury funds in federal, state and local elections;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United has unleashed a torrent of corporate money in our political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in United States history, e.g., in the 2012 Republican presidential primary "super PACs" made possible by the ruling have outspent the campaigns themselves and have effectively become their advertising arms;*

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 that allow them to spend prodigious sums on campaign messages;

WHEREAS, the interests of large corporations are often in direct conflict with the essential needs and rights of human beings, and these corporations have used their judicially determined rights to reverse democratically enacted laws passed at the municipal, state and federal levels, rendering elected governments ineffective in protecting their citizens against corporate harm to the environment, public health, and workers' welfare;

WHEREAS, in 1864 President Abraham Lincoln wrote, "As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the republic is destroyed";

WHEREAS, the Citizens United ruling thus presents a serious and direct threat to our democracy; and

WHEREAS, the people of the United States have previously used the constitutional amendment process to correct those egregiously wrong decisions of the Supreme Court that go to the heart of our democracy and self-government; Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Meeting of Brookline, Massachusetts, calls upon Congress to send to the states for their ratification an amendment to the United States Constitution which restores fair elections by granting to the federal and state governments the authority to regulate the raising and spending of money to influence elections and public policy, to allow public funding of elections, and to establish that corporations do not have free speech rights identical to those of real people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Town officials shall notify the following of this action by Town Meeting: the President of the United States, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Brookline's congressional and state legislative delegations, The Boston Globe and the Brookline TAB.

* http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_action_committee#Super_PACs and <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/03/us/politics/super-pacs-not-campaigns-do-bulk-of-ad-spending.html>

Buckland
Passed 5/9/2012

(passage confirmed by Buckland initiative contact person, text to come)

Cambridge (#1)
Passed
10/24/2011

City Council resolution (text and passage confirmed by online City Council meeting minutes)

WHEREAS: The United States Constitution was adopted and ratified to protect the free speech and other rights of people, not corporations; and

WHEREAS: Corporations are entities created by the law of states and nations; and

WHEREAS: The United States Supreme Court, in its decision Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, overturned long standing precedent prohibiting corporations from spending corporate general treasury funds in our elections; and

WHEREAS: Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission allows unrestricted amounts of corporate money into our political process; and

WHEREAS: Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission purports to invalidate state laws and even state Constitutional provisions separating corporate money from elections; 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 self-government; and

WHEREAS: The people and states of the United States of America have used the amendment process to strengthen the nation and preserve liberty and equality and to reverse erroneous Supreme Court decisions that weaken this liberty and equality; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City of Cambridge hereby joins other communities across the country and calls upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification, a constitutional amendment to reverse Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission and to restore constitutional rights and fair elections to the people; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Senator Scott Brown, Senator John F. Kerry and Representative Michael Capuano on behalf of the entire City Council.

<p>Cambridge (#2) Passed 1/30/2012</p>	<p>Cambridge City Council passed a subsequent policy order resolution, specific to S772 (text and passage confirmed by online City Council meeting minutes)</p> <p>WHEREAS: Last term, the City of Cambridge joined other communities across the country and called on Congress to ratify the Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission decision; and</p> <p>WHEREAS: Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission recently reached its second anniversary and with it has increased nationwide attention of grassroots movements to reverse the United States Supreme Court's decision and restore democracy and faith in the political system; and</p> <p>WHEREAS: State Senator James B. Eldridge has filed Bill S.772 ordering the Congress of the United States to restore free speech; and</p> <p>WHEREAS: Calling on the Massachusetts State Legislature to pass S. 772 will continue to send a strong message that Cambridge believes corporations should not affect election results on both the state and federal level; now therefore be it</p> <p>ORDERED: That the City of Cambridge hereby calls upon the Massachusetts Legislature to pass Bill S.772, which calls upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to restore the First Amendment and fair elections to the people.</p>
<p>Charlemont Passed 5/22/2012</p>	<p>(text from town meeting warrant)</p> <p>Article 20</p> <p>We, the voters of the Charlemont Town Meeting, affirm our belief that the First Amendment of the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not corporations.</p> <p>We believe that the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. FEC, which overturned longstanding precedents prohibiting corporations from spending their general treasury funds in public elections, is a serious and direct threat to our democracy and the conduct of free and fair elections, and permits corporations to drown out the voices of ordinary persons.</p> <p>The people of the United States have previously used the constitutional amendment process to correct decisions of the United States Supreme Court that invade and invalidate democratic institutions, including elections.</p> <p>Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the voters of the Charlemont Town Meeting, call upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to restore the first amendment and fair elections to the people, and further, we call upon the Massachusetts General Court to pass one or more resolutions asking for those actions.</p> <p>A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the State and Federal Representatives and Senators serving Charleont and to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the President of the United States.</p>
<p>Chatham Passed 5/9/2011</p>	<p>(from town meeting warrant; minutes of meeting confirm passage)</p> <p>Article 22 – Petition to Amend United States Constitution</p> <p>To see if the Town will vote to ask the State Legislature to petition the United States Congress to initiate the process of an amendment to the United States Constitution which would allow congress and the states to ban altogether or impose reasonable limits on the expenditure of money by corporations to influence elections.</p> <p>EXPLANATION: On January 21, 2010, the United States Supreme Court, by a 5-4 vote, ruled that the free speech rights of corporations rendered unconstitutional restrictions on the expenditure of money by corporations in an election contest, restrictions which had been part of federal law since</p>

	<p>1907. This decision opened the door to unlimited corporate money in federal, state and local elections, and it is estimated that 15% of the money spent on the elections in 2010 came from corporate sources. Many of the ads were purchased through corporations set up for that purpose, so that voters would not know who was sponsoring the ads. Since the decision was on constitutional grounds, only a constitutional amendment can overturn it.</p>
<p>Chilmark Passed 4/23/2012</p>	<p>(text provided by Chilmark initiative contact person, who confirmed passage; same text as Edgartown, Oak Bluffs, Aquinnah)</p> <p>Article 22:</p> <p>To see if the town will vote to instruct the Selectmen to communicate to the Massachusetts State Senate and House the support of the citizens of the town of Chilmark for Senate Bill 772, Restoring Free Speech, which is as follows: [text of state S.772 follows as part of the resolution]</p>
<p>Colrain Passed 5/8/2012</p>	<p>(text provided by Colrain initiative contact person, who confirmed passage)</p> <p>To see if the town will vote to instruct our members of Congress to support an amendment to the United States Constitution to clarify that corporations do not have the same rights as people and that money is not speech for purposes of election-related spending, and/or take any action relative thereto.</p> <p>WHEREAS, the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights are intended to protect the rights of individual human beings (“real people”); and,</p> <p>WHEREAS, corporations are not mentioned in the Constitution and The People have never granted constitutional rights to corporations;</p> <p>WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission presents a serious threat to self-government by allowing unlimited corporate spending to influence elections;</p> <p>WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution empowers and obligates the people of the United States of America to use the constitutional amendment process to correct egregiously wrong decisions of the United States Supreme Court that go to the heart of our democracy;</p> <p>NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the voters of Colrain, Massachusetts hereby instruct the Senators representing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the member of the United States House of Representatives representing this Congressional District to propose and our state legislators to ratify an amendment to the United States Constitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the constitutional rights of real people and that money is not speech for purposes of campaign-related expenditures and contributions.</p> <p>The text of the proposed amendment is as follows:</p> <p>Amendment</p> <p>Section 1 [A corporation is not a person and can be regulated]. The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only. Artificial entities, such as corporations, limited liability companies, and other entities, established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state shall have no rights under this Constitution and are subject to regulation by the People, through Federal, State, or local law. The privileges of artificial entities shall be determined by the People, through Federal, State, or local law, and shall not be construed to be inherent or inalienable.</p> <p>Section 2 [Money is not speech and can be regulated].</p>

Federal, State and local government shall regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures, including a candidate's own contributions and expenditures, for the purpose of influencing in any way the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure.
Federal, State and local government shall require that any permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed.
The judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to influence elections to be speech under the First Amendment.

Section 3

Nothing contained in this amendment shall be construed to abridge the freedom of the press.

Concord
Passed 4/26/2012

(from town meeting warrant; passage confirmed by Concord initiative contact person)

ARTICLE 48.

To determine whether the Town will vote to adopt a resolution calling upon the Congress of the United States to pass and send to the States for ratification a constitutional amendment to reverse the decision of the United States Supreme Court in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, to declare that corporations are not "persons" under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, and to restore to the People their right to regulate the expenditures of corporations to ensure fair elections, in substantially the following form:

WHEREAS, We the people adopted and ratified the First Amendment to the United States Constitution to protect the free speech and other rights of people, not corporations;

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

WHEREAS, A narrow majority of the United States Supreme Court in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission overturned longstanding precedent which permitted under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution laws prohibiting corporations from spending corporate general treasury funds in our elections;

WHEREAS, Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission invalidates federal laws, state laws and even state Constitutional provisions precluding the expenditure of corporate money in elections;

WHEREAS, Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission has unleashed an infusion of corporate money into our political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in United States history;

WHEREAS, Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission presents a serious and direct threat to our republican democracy;

WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution empowers the people and the states of the United States of America to use the constitutional amendment process to correct an egregiously wrong decision of the United States Supreme Court such as Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission which goes to the heart of our democracy and republican self-government; and

WHEREAS, the people and states of the United States of America have strengthened the nation and preserved liberty and equality for all by using the amendment process throughout our history, in several instances to reverse Supreme Court decisions;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE THE PEOPLE OF CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS CALL UPON THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO PASS AND SEND TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REVERSE THE DECISION OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT IN CITIZENS UNITED V. FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, TO DECLARE THAT CORPORATIONS ARE NOT "PERSONS" UNDER THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, AND TO RESTORE TO THE PEOPLE THEIR RIGHT TO REGULATE THE EXPENDITURES OF CORPORATIONS TO ENSURE FAIR ELECTIONS.

or take any other action relative thereto.

[This Article asks whether Town Meeting will adopt a resolution calling upon the Congress of the United States to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to reverse the decision of the United States Supreme Court in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, declare that corporations are not “persons” under the First Amendment, and restore the people's right to regulate the expenditures of corporations to ensure fair elections.]

Conway
Passed 5/14

(Text from town meeting warrant; passage confirmed by Conway initiative contact person)

ARTICLE 40: A RESOLUTION THAT CORPORATIONS ARE NOT ‘NATURAL’ PEOPLE AND THAT MONEY DOES NOT EQUATE TO FREE SPEECH:

To see if the Town will vote to instruct our members of Congress to support an amendment to the United States Constitution to clarify that corporations do not have the same rights as people and that money is not speech for purposes of election-related spending, and/or take any action relative thereto.

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights are intended to protect the rights of individual human beings (“real People”); and,

WHEREAS, corporations are not mentioned in the Constitution and The People have never granted constitutional rights to corporations; and,

WHEREAS, the United State Supreme Court in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission presents a serious threat to self-government by allowing unlimited corporate spending to influence elections; and,

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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the voters of Conway, Massachusetts hereby instruct the Senators representing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the members of the United States House of Representatives representing this Congressional District to propose, and our state legislators to ratify an amendment to the United States Constitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the constitutional rights of real people and that money is not speech for purposes of campaign-related expenditures and contributions.

The text of the proposed amendment is as follows:

Amendment

Section 1. [A corporation is not a person and can be regulated]

The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only.

Artificial entities, such as corporations, limited liability companies, and other entities, established by the laws of any State, the Unites States, or any foreign state shall have no rights under this Constitution and are subject to regulation by the People, through Federal, State, or local law.

The Privileges of artificial entities shall be determined by the People, through Federal, State, or local law, and shall not be construed to be inherent or inalienable.

Section 2. [Money is not speech and can be regulated]

Federal, State and local government shall regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures, including a candidate’s own contributions and expenditures, for the purpose of influencing in any way the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure.

Federal, State and local government shall require that any permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed.

The judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to influence elections to be speech under the First Amendment.

Section 3.

Nothing contained in this amendment shall be construed to abridge the freedom of the press.

Cumington
Passed 5/4/2012

(text provided by Cumington initiative contact person, who confirmed passage)

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution, or take any action relative thereto:

Resolution to Legalize Democracy and Abolish Corporate Personhood

Whereas, government of, by, and for the people has long been a cherished American value, and We The People's fundamental and inalienable right to self-govern, and thereby secure rights to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness is guaranteed in the US Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, and;

Whereas, free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective self-governance, and;

Whereas, persons are rightfully recognized as human beings whose essential needs include clean air, clean water, safe and secure food, and;

Whereas, corporations are entirely human-made legal fictions created by express permission of We The People and our government, and;

Whereas, corporations can exist in perpetuity, can exist simultaneously in many nations at once, need only profit for survival, and exist solely through the legal charter imposed by the government of We The People, and;

Whereas, in addition to these advantages, the great wealth of large corporations allows them to wield coercive force of law to overpower human beings and communities, thus denying We The People's exercise of our Constitutional rights, and;

Whereas, corporations are not mentioned in the Constitution, and the People have never granted constitutional rights to corporations, nor have We decreed that corporations have authority that exceeds the authority of We The People of the United States.

Whereas, interpretation of the US Constitution by unelected Supreme Court justices to include corporations in the term "persons" has long denied We The People's exercise of self-governance by endowing corporations with Constitutional protections intended for We The People, and;

Whereas, the illegitimate judicial bestowal of civil and political rights upon corporations usurps basic human and Constitutional rights guaranteed to human persons, and also empowers corporations to sue municipal and state governments for adopting laws that violate "corporate rights" even when those laws serve to protect and defend the rights of human persons and communities, and;

Whereas, corporations are not and have never been human beings, and therefore are rightfully subservient to human beings and governments as our legal creations, and;

Whereas, large corporations' profits and survival are often in direct conflict with the essential needs and rights of human beings, and;

Whereas, large corporations have used their so-called "rights" to overturn democratically enacted laws passed at municipal, state and federal levels, aimed at curbing corporate abuse, thereby rendering local governments ineffective in protecting their citizens against corporate harms to the

environment, to health, to workers, to independent business, to local and regional economies, and;

Whereas, the recent Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission Supreme Court decision that rolled back the legal limits on corporate spending in the electoral process creates an unequal playing field and allows unlimited corporate spending to influence elections, candidate selection, policy decisions and sway votes, and forces elected officials to divert their attention from The Peoples' business, or even vote against the interest of their human constituents, in order to ensure competitive campaign funds for their own re-election, and;

Whereas, large corporations own most of America's mass media and use that media as a megaphone to express loudly their political agenda and to convince Americans that their primary role is that of consumers, rather than sovereign citizens with rights and responsibilities within our democracy, and this forces citizens to toil to discern the truth behind headlines and election campaigning, and;

Whereas, people and municipalities across the nation are joining with the Campaign to Legalize Democracy in the United States to call for an Amendment to the US Constitution to Abolish Corporate Personhood;

Therefore be it resolved that the people of Cummington, Massachusetts hereby calls on our Selectboard to join the citizens, grassroots organizations and local governments across the county in the Campaign to Legalize Democracy in the US and to call for an Amendment to the Constitution to Abolish Corporate Personhood and return our democracy, our elections, our communities back to America's human persons and to thus reclaim our sovereign right to self-governance.

Be it further resolved that the people of Cummington, Massachusetts supports education to increase public awareness of the threats to our democracy posed by Corporate Personhood, and encourages lively discussion to build understanding and consensus to take appropriate community and municipal actions to democratically respond to these threats.

Be it further resolved, that the people of Cummington, Massachusetts hereby instruct our state and federal representatives to enact resolutions and legislation to advance this effort.

Deerfield
Passed 5/1/2012

(text from town meeting warrant; passage confirmed by Deerfield initiative contact person)

ARTICLE 22

To see if the town will vote to instruct our members of Congress to support an amendment to the United States Constitution to clarify that corporations do not have the same rights as people and that money is not speech for the purposes of election-related spending,

Whereas, the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights are intended to protect the rights of individual human beings ("real people"); and,

Whereas the United States Supreme Court in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission presents a serious threat to self-government by allowing unlimited corporate spending to influence elections;

Whereas, Article V of the United States Constitution empowers and obligates the people of the United States of American to use the constitutional amendment process to correct egregiously wrong decisions of the United States Supreme Court that got to the heart of our democracy;

Now therefore, be it resolved that the voters of Deerfield, Massachusetts hereby instruct the Senators representing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the member of the United States House of Representatives representing this Congressional District to propose and our state legislators to ratify an amendment to the United States Constitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the constitutional rights of real people and that money is not speech for purposes of campaign-related expenditures and contributions.

The text of the proposed amendment is as follows:

Amendment

	<p>Section 1 [A corporation is not a person and can be regulated] The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only. Artificial entities, such as corporations, limited liability companies, and other entities established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state shall have no rights under this Constitution and are subject to regulation by the People, through Federal, State or local law. The privileges of artificial entities shall be determined by the People, through Federal, State or local law, and shall not be construed to be inherent or inalienable.</p> <p>Section 2 [Money is not speech and can be regulated] Federal, State and local government shall regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures, including a candidate's own contributions and expenditures, for the purpose of influencing in any way the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure. Federal, State and local government shall require that any permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed. The judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to influence elections to be speech under the First Amendment</p> <p>Section 3 Nothing contained in this amendment shall be construed to abridge the freedom of the press.</p>
Dennis Passed 5/3/2011	(from town meeting warrant; minutes of meeting confirm passage, 82 yes - 40 no) Article 51 To see if the Town will vote to direct our Representatives to the MA Legislature and United States Congress to work for ratification of a Constitutional Amendment that reads: “Corporations, political action committees (PACs), and foreign agents are not citizens under the U.S. Constitution and shall not be allowed to financially influence elections.”
Edgartown Passed 4/10/2012	(from special town meeting warrant; same text as Chilmark, Oak Bluffs, Aquinnah; passage confirmed by town clerk) Article 12: To see if the town will vote to instruct the Selectmen to communicate to the Massachusetts State Senate and House the support of the citizens of the town of Edgartown for Senate Bill 772, Restoring Free Speech, which is as follows: [text of state S.772 follows as part of the resolution]
Falmouth Passed 4/5/2012	(from town meeting warrant, passage confirmed by eyewitness and town clerk) ARTICLE 25 To see if the Town will vote to adopt a resolution as follows: We, the members of the Falmouth Town Meeting, affirm our belief that the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not corporations. We believe that the United States Supreme Court’s ruling in Citizens United v. FEC, which allows corporations and unions to give unlimited funds to advocacy groups to influence elections, and the billions of dollars corporations spend in lobbying, greatly outweighing amounts spent by unions and public-interest groups, threaten democracy by allowing corporations to cause the election of candidates who will serve themselves, not ordinary citizens.

The people of the United States through their legislators have previously amended the Constitution to regulate elections and federal officeholding nine times.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Falmouth Town Meeting, call upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to specify that constitutional personhood rights are for natural persons only and to restore the peoples' rights to fairness in elections and influence on government policy, and further, we call upon the Massachusetts General Court to pass one or more resolutions asking those actions.

Or do or take any other action on this matter.

Framingham
Passed 4/24/2012

(passage confirmed by Framingham contact person)

ARTICLE 5

SPONSOR: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, corporations should not be considered natural persons with constitutional rights equal to the rights of real people;

WHEREAS, corporations are created by the people and are subject to regulation by the people;

WHEREAS, the present system of campaign financing is dramatically diluting the voice of Americans who do not control a large corporate treasury by enabling anonymous corporate super-PACs to overwhelm voters and threaten public officials with massive negative campaign advertising;

WHEREAS, it is not in the interest of our democratic form of government that corporations be able to make any campaign contributions or election expenditures;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. FEC presents a serious and direct threat to our democracy;

WHEREAS, Congress and the States have the power to regulate campaign finances;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Town of Framingham calls upon the Great and General Court of the Commonwealth to support a resolution requesting Congress to pass and send to the States for ratification a constitutional amendment to give Congress and the States the power to regulate and set reasonable limits on all election contributions and expenditures, including a candidate's own spending, and to authorize the establishment of political committees to receive, spend, and publicly disclose the sources of those contributions and expenditures.

Gloucester
Passed 10/9/2012

(text from City Council meeting agenda)

WHEREAS, for the past three decades, a divided United States Supreme Court has stretched the limits of the First Amendment to allow for corporations, unions, political action committees and super political action committees to influence the political process and democratically-enacted reforms; AND

WHEREAS, the First Amendment has been greatly impacted by the United States Supreme Court's precedent prohibiting these interests from spending general treasury funds in democratic elections; AND

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting these interests from spending general treasury funds in democratic elections; AND

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United will allow special interests limitless and unprecedented campaign spending and thus disproportionate influence, threatening the fairness of the democratic process; AND

WHEREAS, the people of the United States have previously used the constitutional amendment process to overturn Supreme Court decisions that present a risk to the democratic process and self government; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Gloucester, Massachusetts, hereby memorializes the 112th Congress of the United States to pass and send to the states for ratification a Constitutional Amendment to restore the First Amendment and fair elections to the people; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted forthwith by the City Clerk to the President of the United States, to the presiding officer of each branch of Congress and to the members of those branches from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Great Barrington
Passed 5/2/2011

(from town meeting warrant, passage confirmed by town meeting minutes)

Article 31: Petition for Constitutional Amendment

The First Amendment to the United States constitution was designed to protect the free-speech rights of individuals (“natural persons”), not corporations. For the past three decades, however, a divided United States Supreme Court has steadily eroded – in the name of First Amendment free-speech rights – a number of limitations placed on corporate expenditures aimed at influencing elections and the legislative process. These Supreme Court decisions have shifted political influence from ordinary citizens to corporations, thereby strengthening the power of corporations to limit and block democratically-enacted corporate reforms.

This granting of free-speech rights to corporations reached an extreme conclusion with the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling in Citizens United v. FEC, which basically allows corporations to make unlimited expenditures for advocacy in favor or against political candidates and issues. Many see this development as not only a further erosion of the influence of individuals in the political process, but as – in essence – a corporate takeover of the First Amendment.

The U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling in Citizens United has already unleashed a torrent of corporate money in our political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in the history of the United States; therefore, this ruling presents a serious and direct threat to our democracy “of the people, by the people and for the people.” The people of the United States have previously used the constitutional amendment process to correct egregiously harmful decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court that go to the heart of our democracy and self-government, such as the Citizens United decision. It is for that reason that we present the following resolution to the voters of Great Barrington.

BE IT RESOLVED that the voters of Great Barrington, Massachusetts call upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the States for ratification, a Constitutional Amendment that Congress and the States will regulate the expenditure of funds for political speech by any corporation,

	<p>limited liability company or other corporate entity.</p>
<p>Lanesborough Passed 5/2011</p>	<p>(passage confirmed by Lanesborough initiative contact person)</p> <p>The citizens of Lanesborough call upon the Selectmen to send a letter to Rep. Paul Mark and Sen. Ben Downing, the Speaker of the State House of Representative and Majority Leader of the State Senate urging the passage of the following resolution introduced by Sen Eldridge:</p> <p>WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not corporations;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>WHEREAS, this corporate takeover of the First Amendment has reached its extreme conclusion in the United States Supreme Court's recent ruling in Citizens United v. FEC;</p> <p>WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. FEC overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations from spending their general treasury funds in our elections;</p> <p>WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. FEC will now unleash a torrent of corporate money in our political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in United States history;</p> <p>WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. FEC presents a serious and direct threat to our democracy;</p> <p>WHEREAS, the people of the United States have previously used 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 self-government;</p> <p>Now be it resolved that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hereby calls upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to restore the First Amendment and fair elections to the people.</p>
<p>Lenox Passed 6/20/2012</p>	<p>(text, and passage by Board of Selectmen, confirmed by official town document)</p> <p>WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not corporations; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. FEC overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations from spending their general treasury funds in our elections; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. FEC has now unleashed a torrent of corporate money in our political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in United States history; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. FEC presents a serious and direct threat to our democracy by unduly influencing political campaigns and decision making that is counter to our democratic principles of one person, one vote;</p>

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Lenox, Massachusetts, calls upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to reverse Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission; and to clarify that corporations are not entitled to the Constitutional protections or "rights of natural persons" and thus restoring the First Amendment and fair elections for the people.

Leverett #1
Passed 4/24/2010

(from Leverett town meeting warrant; passage confirmed by Leverett initiative contact person)

Article Twenty-Six: Resolution to Legalize Democracy and Abolish Corporate Personhood

WHEREAS, government of, by, and for the people has long been a cherished American value, and We The People's fundamental and inalienable right to self-govern, and thereby secure rights to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness is guaranteed in the US Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, and;

WHEREAS, free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective self-governance, and;

WHEREAS, persons are rightfully recognized as human beings whose essential needs include clean air, clean water, safe and secure food, and;

WHEREAS, corporations are entirely human-made legal fictions created by express permission of We The People and our government, and;

WHEREAS, corporations can exist in perpetuity, can exist simultaneously in many nations at once, need only profit for survival, and exist solely through the legal charter imposed by the government of We The People, and;

WHEREAS, in addition to these advantages, the great wealth of large corporations allows them to wield coercive force of law to overpower human beings and communities, thus denying We The People's exercise of our Constitutional rights, and;

WHEREAS, corporations are not mentioned in the Constitution. The People have never granted constitutional rights to corporations, nor have We decreed that corporations have authority that exceeds the authority of We The People of the United States.

WHEREAS, interpretation of the US Constitution by unelected Supreme Court justices to include corporations in the term 'persons' has long denied We The People's exercise of self-governance by endowing corporations with Constitutional protections intended for We The People, and;

WHEREAS, the illegitimate judicial bestowal of civil and political rights upon corporations usurps basic human and Constitutional rights guaranteed to human persons, and also empowers corporations to sue municipal and state governments for adopting laws that violate 'corporate rights' even when those laws serve to protect and defend the rights of human persons and communities, and;

WHEREAS, corporations are not and have never been human beings, and therefore are rightfully subservient to human beings and governments as our legal creations, and;

WHEREAS, large corporations' profits and survival are often in direct conflict with the essential needs and rights of human beings, and;

WHEREAS, large corporations have used their so-called „rights_ to overturn democratically enacted laws passed at municipal, state and federal levels, aimed at curbing corporate abuse, thereby rendering local governments ineffective in protecting their citizens against corporate harms to the environment, to health, to workers, to independent business, to local and regional economies, and;

WHEREAS, the recent Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission Supreme Court decision that rolled back the legal limits on corporate spending in the electoral process creates an unequal playing field and allows unlimited corporate spending to influence elections, candidate selection, policy decisions and sway votes, and forces elected officials to divert their attention from The People's business, or even vote against the interest of their human constituents, in order to ensure competitive campaign funds for their own re-election, and;

WHEREAS, large corporations own most of America's mass media and use that media as a megaphone to express loudly their political agenda and to convince Americans that their primary role is that of consumers, rather than sovereign citizens with rights and responsibilities within our democracy, and this forces citizens to toil to discern the truth behind headlines and election campaigning, and;

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of people and municipalities across the nation are joining with the Campaign to Legalize Democracy in the United States to call for an Amendment to the US Constitution to Abolish Corporate Personhood;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Leverett, Massachusetts hereby calls on our Selectboard to join the tens of thousands of citizens, grassroots organizations and local governments across the county in the Campaign to Legalize Democracy in the US and to call for an Amendment to the Constitution to Abolish Corporate Personhood and return our democracy, our elections, our communities back to America's human persons and to thus reclaim our sovereign right to self-governance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Leverett, Massachusetts supports education to increase public awareness of the threats to our democracy posed by Corporate Personhood, and encourages lively discussion to build understanding and consensus to take appropriate community and municipal actions to democratically respond to these threats.

Leverett #2
Passed 4/28/2012

(text from town meeting warrant, passage confirmed by Leverett initiative contact person)

ARTICLE 27 (by petition):

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution, or take any action relative thereto:

Resolution for a Constitutional amendment to restore the First Amendment and fair elections to the people

Whereas, by passing a Resolution to Legalize Democracy and Abolish Corporate Personhood at the April 24, 2010 annual meeting, the Town of Leverett decreed that only human beings, not corporations, are endowed with constitutional rights and money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

Therefore be it resolved that the Town of Leverett, Massachusetts supports Senate Resolution No. 772 presented by Mr. James B. Eldridge (and others) that calls for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to call upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the States for ratification a constitutional amendment to restore the First Amendment and fair elections to the people, and calls upon our elected representatives, Rep. Stephen Kulik and Senator Stanley Rosenberg, to make every effort to see that this bill is reported favorably out of committee and to vote for it when it comes up for a vote.

Be it further resolved that the Town of Leverett, Massachusetts calls upon our elected members of Congress to pass H.J. Res. 88 introduced by Mr. Jim McGovern to amend the Constitution of the United States to make clear that the rights protected by the Constitution are the rights of natural persons and to clarify the authority of Congress and the States to regulate corporations, limited liability companies or other corporate entities established by the laws of any state, the United States, or any foreign state.

Lincoln
Passed 3/24/2012

(text from town meeting warrant; passage confirmed by Lincoln initiative contact person)

ARTICLE 39

To determine if the Town will resolve to support a People's Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States stating that the rights protected by that Constitution are the rights of natural persons only, not corporations, limited liability companies, or other entities established by the laws of any State, the United States or any foreign state; that Federal, State and local governments may regulate, limit or prohibit contributions and expenditures by the above entities that might influence in any way the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure; and that such contributions and expenditures shall be required by Federal, State and local governments to be publicly disclosed in a timely manner;

or take any other action relative thereto.

Lynn
Passed 2/14/2012

(Passed by City Council 11-0, confirmed by meeting minutes)

People's Rights Resolution

WHEREAS, We the people adopted and ratified the United States Constitution to protect the free speech and other rights of people, not corporations;

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

WHEREAS, for the past three decades, a divided United States Supreme Court has erroneously transformed the First Amendment into a powerful tool for corporations seeking to evade and invalidate the people's laws;

WHEREAS, this corporate misuse of the First Amendment and Constitution has reached an extreme conclusion in the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission;

WHEREAS, Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations from spending corporate general treasury funds in our elections;

WHEREAS, Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission unleashes a torrent of corporate money in our political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in United States history;

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

WHEREAS, Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission presents a serious and direct threat to our republican democracy;

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 self- government; and

WHEREAS, the people and states of the United States of America have strengthened the nation and preserved liberty and equality for all by using the amendment process throughout our history, including in seven of the ten decades of the 20th Century, and including to reverse seven erroneous Supreme Court decisions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE LYNN CITY COUNCIL CALL UPON THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS AND SEND TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REVERSE CITIZEN UNITED V. FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION AND TO RESTORE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND FAIR ELECTIONS TO THE PEOPLE.

By the People of the great City of Lynn in the County of Essex, Massachusetts.

Medway
Passed 5/14/2012

(Text from town meeting warrant; passage confirmed by Medway initiative contact person)

ARTICLE 49. Corporate Personhood Resolution

WHEREAS in 2010 the United States Supreme Court issued its decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, holding that independent spending on elections by corporations and other groups could not be limited by government regulations; and

WHEREAS this decision rolled back the legal restrictions on corporate spending in the electoral process, allowing for unlimited corporate spending to influence elections, candidate selection, and policy decision; and

WHEREAS in reaching its decision, a majority of the Supreme Court, relying on prior decisions, interpreted the First Amendment of the Constitution to afford corporations the same free speech protections as natural persons; and

WHEREAS in his eloquent dissent, Justice John Paul Stevens rightly recognized that “corporations have no consciences, no beliefs, no feelings, no thoughts, no desires. Corporations help structure and facilitate the activities of human beings, to be sure, and their ‘personhood’ often serves as a useful legal fiction. But they are not themselves members of ‘We the People’ by whom and for whom our Constitution was established”; and

WHEREAS the Court’s decision in Citizens United severely hampers the ability of federal, state and local governments to enact reasonable campaign finance reforms and regulations regarding corporate political activity; and

WHEREAS corporations should not be afforded the entirety of protections or “rights” of natural persons, such that the expenditure of corporate money to influence the electoral process is a form of constitutionally protected speech; and

WHEREAS several proposed amendments to the Constitution have been introduced in Congress that would allow governments to regulate the raising and spending of money by corporations to influence elections;

now therefore be it RESOLVED That at the Annual Town Meeting in May of 2012, the citizens of Medway attending do hereby oppose the Supreme Court’s interpretation of the Constitution in Citizens United regarding the constitutional rights of corporations, and supporting amending the Constitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the entirety of protections or “rights” of natural persons, specifically so that the expenditure of corporate money to influence the electoral process is no longer a form of constitutionally protected speech, and calls on Congress to begin the process of amending the Constitution.

And Further Be It RESOLVED That at the Annual Town Meeting in May of 2012, the citizens of Medway attending do hereby encourage the Massachusetts General Court to adopt Senate Bill 772, A Resolution Restoring Free Speech, sponsored by Senator Jamie Eldridge.

And Further Be It RESOLVED That the vote taken regarding this resolution shall be communicated by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Medway to all of the members of the Massachusetts General Court within ten days following the Annual Town Meeting.

Methuen
Passed 8/6/2012

(text provided by Methuen initiative contact person, who confirmed passage)

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 individual human beings (“natural persons”), not corporations; and

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

WHEREAS, Corporations are not mentioned in the Constitution and The People have never recognized the extension of fundamental constitutional

rights to corporations, nor have We decreed that corporations have authority that exceeds the authority of “We the People”; and

WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution empowers and obliges 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 self-government; and

WHEREAS, Notwithstanding the decision in Citizens United v. FEC, legislators have a duty to protect democracy and guard against potentially detrimental effects of corporate spending in local, state, and federal elections;

RESOLVED, That the City Council of Methuen calls upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to reverse Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission; and to clarify that:

- Corporations are not entitled to the Constitutional protections or “rights” of natural persons; And
- Money is not speech, and therefore setting reasonable limits on election-related spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech; And

RESOLVED, that we instruct the representatives of The City of Methuen to make the need and support for a constitutional amendment known to our state’s Congressional delegation, and to the Congress at large and to ask for their position on such an amendment.

Montague
Passed 5/5/2012

(text from citizens petition and draft town meeting warrant, passage confirmed by Montague initiative contact person)

That the town vote to instruct our members of Congress to support an amendment to the United States Constitution to clarify that corporations do not have the same rights as people and that money is not speech for purposes of election- related spending, and/or take any action relative thereto. We further direct the Montague Town Clerk, upon passage of this resolution, to send copies to Montague’s state representative, state senator, congressional representatives, U.S. senators, and the governor of Massachusetts with an accompanying cover letter, stating that this resolution was passed by the residents of Montague at their annual town meeting, Sat., May 5, 2012.

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution and the Bill of rights are intended to protect the rights of individual human beings (“real people”); and,

WHEREAS, corporations are not mentioned in the Constitution and The People have never granted constitutional rights to corporations;

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in citizens United v. Federal Election Commission presents a serious threat to self- government by allowing unlimited corporate spending to influence elections;

WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution empowers and obligates the people of the United States to use the constitutional amendment process to correct egregiously wrong decisions of the United States Supreme Court that go to the heart of our democracy;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the voters of Montague, Massachusetts hereby instruct the Senators representing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the member of the United States House of Representatives representing this Congressional District to propose and our state legislators to ratify an amendment to the United States Constitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the constitutional rights of real people and that money is not speech for purposes of campaign- related expenditures and contributions.

The text of the proposed amendment is as follows:

Amendment

Section 1 (A corporation is not a person and can be regulated)

The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only.

Artificial entities, such as corporations, limited liability companies, and other entities, established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state shall have no rights under this Constitution and are subject to regulation by The People, through Federal, State, or local law.

	<p>The privileges of artificial entities shall be determined by The People, through Federal, State, or local law, and shall not be construed to be inherent or inalienable.</p> <p>Section 2 (Money is not speech and can be regulated) Federal, State and local government shall regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures, including a candidate's own contributions and expenditures, for the purpose of influencing in any way the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure. Federal, State and local government shall require that any permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed. The judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to influence elections to be speech under the First Amendment.</p> <p>Section 3 Nothing contained in this amendment shall be construed to abridge the freedom of the press.</p>
<p>Monterey Passed 5/5/2012</p>	<p>(text from town warrant [is there resolution text not in the warrant?], unanimous passage confirmed by Monterey initiative contact person)</p> <p>ARTICLE 27.</p> <p>To see if the Town will vote to approve a resolution presented by citizen petition, to direct the Town Clerk to ask our Senators to call upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the States for ratification, a constitutional amendment to reverse Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, and to restore constitutional rights and fair elections to the people.</p>
<p>Nahant Passed 4/28/2012</p>	<p>(text from town warrant, passage confirmed by Nahant initiative contact person)</p> <p>ARTICLE 25. (Resolution) To request the Town of Nahant to vote a resolution to call upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court's decision in Citizen's United v. Federal Elections Commission and to restore democracy to the people as petitioned for by Kathy Lique and 14 other voters.</p> <p>Supporting Statement:</p> <p>Rationale for the Resolution regarding a Constitutional Amendment</p> <p>Are the interests of "the People" being addressed in Washington? Instead, many see that the interests of corporations and their lobbyists dominate in Washington. Since the Citizens United Supreme Court decision two years ago, these concerns have grown as we see the rapidly increasing flow of money into our electoral process from corporate interests, often anonymous. That ruling is the culmination of a long trend of court decisions that have gradually given corporations more and more of the rights that the Constitution allocates just to people. Government cannot limit spending by corporations in any elections in our country unless this ruling is changed. Three months after the ruling an ABC News/Washington Post poll found that 80% of those polled oppose the ruling.</p> <p>Corporations are not people. They are creations of the state. They initially were created, supervised, and conceptualized as quasi-public entities, "designed to serve a social function for the state." Now, their interest is in making profits and satisfying shareholders. It is not their "job" to safeguard the overall wellbeing of our society, our education, our earth, etc.; that is the job of the People. To address this situation and to reclaim our democracy requires that Congress pass and send to the states a Constitutional amendment removing personhood rights that have been given to corporations through the courts. This resolution asks that Congress end such an amendment to the states for ratification.</p> <p>From the dissenting opinion: "Corporations have no consciences, no beliefs, no feelings, no thoughts, no desires...they are not themselves members of "We the People "by whom and for whom our Constitution was established. The distinctive threat to democratic integrity posed by corporate domination of politics was recognized at the "inception of the republic" and "has been a persistent theme in American political life" ever since."</p>

<p>Natick Passed 4/12/2012</p>	<p>(Not on town warrant, brought up as a non-binding resolution. Text supplied by Natick initiative contact person, who confirmed passage)</p> <p>We, the Town Meeting of Natick, Massachusetts, declare that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The United States Constitution was adopted and ratified to protect the free speech and other rights of people, not corporations;2. Corporate and private entities are not people, but are created under the laws of states and nations, subject to regulation by the people through the legislative process; and3. The Supreme Court decision, Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, unleashed unlimited spending from undisclosed special interest sources that is a threat to our local and national republican democracy, and to our individual free and fair participation in political and government processes; <p>and therefore, we urge our state and federal elected officials to support legislation and a constitutional amendment to reverse Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, and to work toward fair elections in the United States.</p>
<p>Needham Passed 5/14/2012</p>	<p>(Text from town meeting warrant, but was slightly revised later; need to get final text. Passage confirmed by Needham initiative contact person)</p> <p>ARTICLE 23</p> <p>WHEREAS the expenditure of unlimited corporate and union general treasury funds to influence elections threatens to overwhelm our individual voices in our electoral and governing processes, and</p> <p>WHEREAS the U.S. Supreme Court's 5:4 ruling on January 21, 2010 in 'Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission' took away the long-standing power of Congress to place limits on corporate and union political spending, and</p> <p>WHEREAS the Court's decision in 'Citizens United' applies to state and local elections, as well as to federal elections, and so makes real the threat that corporate and union expenditures will dominate state and local elections,</p> <p>Now, therefore let it be resolved that this Town Meeting calls upon the Massachusetts congressional delegation to support an amendment to the US Constitution that would overturn the Supreme Court decision in 'Citizens United.'</p> <p>Be it further resolved that this Town Meeting calls upon our State Legislature to seek the support of our federal delegation for the amendment and to support the amendment if Congress sends it to the states for ratification.</p>
<p>Newbury Passed 5/22/2012</p>	<p>(text from town meeting warrant, passage confirmed by Newbury initiative contact person)</p> <p>ARTICLE 30.</p> <p>To request the Town of Newbury to approve the following resolution, calling on the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court's January 2010 decision in Citizen's United v. Federal Election Commission and to restore democracy to the people.</p> <p>In a 5-4 ruling in Citizens United v Federal Election Commission, the Supreme Court held for the first time that corporations, both for-profit and not-for-profit, and unions have a First Amendment right to spend unlimited amounts from their treasuries to support or oppose candidates for elected office. Prohibitions on corporate political donations, according to the court, violate the First Amendment – guaranteed free speech rights of corporations. This ruling essentially established that according to the meaning and intent of the First Amendment, corporations should be treated as natural persons and that money equals free speech. While special interest money was always a concern in elections, corporations – including foreign corporations – may</p>

now intervene directly in elections, taking power away from voters.

Resolution

Whereas, government of, by and for the people has long been a cherished American value, and We The People's fundamental and inalienable right to selfgovern is guaranteed in the Constitution, and;

Whereas, corporations are not mentioned in the Constitution, and The People have never granted constitutional rights to corporations, nor have We decreed that corporations have authority that exceeds the authority of We The People of the United States;

Whereas, corporations are not and have never been human beings, and therefore are rightfully subservient to human beings and governments as our legal creations;

Whereas, the recent Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission Supreme Court decision that rolled back the legal limits on corporate spending in the electoral process creates an unequal playing field for We the People and allows unlimited corporate spending to influence elections, candidate selection, and policy decisions;

Whereas, free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective selfgovernance:

Therefore be it resolved that it is the sense of the Town of Newbury, in Tow Meeting assembled, that the Constitution of the United States ought to be amended to the effect that, corporations are not people and do not have the same constitutional rights as human beings, the people have the right to regulate corporations, corporations are prohibited from making campaign contributions, and Congress and states shall have the power to set reasonable limits on election spending.

Be it further resolved that the Town of Newbury, Massachusetts calls on other communities and jurisdictions to join with us in this action by passing similar resolutions.

Newburyport
Passed 3/27/2012

(text from Councilor Herzog's website, passed unanimously by City Council, confirmed by eyewitnesses and Newburyport initiative contact person)

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

WHEREAS for the past three decades, the 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 takeover of the First Amendment has reached its extreme conclusion in the United States Supreme Court's recent ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, overturning longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations from spending their general treasury funds in our elections; and

WHEREAS the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. FEC will now unleash a torrent of corporate money in our political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in United States history; and

WHEREAS the people of the United States have previously used 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 self-government; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Newburyport City Council calls upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to restore the First Amendment and fair elections to the people; and be it further

RESOLVED that the City Clerk be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Newburyport's Congressional Representative (John Tierney), Massachusetts State Senator (Steven Baddour), and Massachusetts State Representative (Michael Costello).

Newton
Passed 7/9/2012

(text provided by Alderman Hess-Mahan, who confirmed passage)

BE IT RESOLVED:

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bill of Rights provides certain inalienable rights to natural persons, and

WHEREAS, corporations are not mentioned in the U.S. Constitution, and

WHEREAS, corporations are legal entities created solely by state action, their entitlement, if any, to certain rights should be more narrowly defined than the rights afforded natural persons under the U.S. Constitution, and

WHEREAS, the decision to regulate corporate financial campaign contributions is one that historically Congress and the states have been constitutionally allowed to address, and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, 130 S.Ct. 876 (U.S. 2010), ruled that Congress and the states lacked the constitutional right to ban independent corporate expenditures to political campaigns for public office, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court in the *Citizens United* decision relied on its previously issued opinion in the 1976 case *Buckley v. Valeo*, 424 U.S. 1 (U.S. 1976), in which it equated the spending of money for electing candidates to public office to speech, and

WHEREAS, based on the *Citizens United* decision, the U.S. Supreme Court, without allowing oral argument, summarily reversed a decision by the Montana Supreme Court upholding that state's law limiting independent political spending by corporations in a case entitled *American Traditions Partnership, Inc. v. Bullock*, No. 11-1179 (June 25, 2012), and

WHEREAS, the *Citizens United* decision and its progeny have allowed for the creation of super political action committees in election campaigns for public office that allow for unregulated campaign expenditures in unprecedented amounts, and

WHEREAS, as a result of the *Citizens United* decision and its progeny, Congress and the state legislatures were denied any legal authority to regulate independent corporate political expenditures, and

WHEREAS, a restoration of the guidelines established in the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 is imperative so that Congress and the state legislatures may exercise their historic authority to make their own decisions about whether to regulate corporate political expenditures, and

WHEREAS, this policy change will require that the U.S. Constitution be amended to authorize congressional or state regulation of individual and corporate financial participation in political campaigns, and

WHEREAS, approximately seventy cities and towns across Massachusetts and numerous state and local governments nationwide have already passed resolutions urging the U.S. Congress to propose legislative or congressional action to address the issues raised by *Citizens United* including that money is not speech and corporations are not persons under the U.S. Constitution, and

WHEREAS, Massachusetts Senator Jamie Eldridge with 25 co-sponsors has filed a Petition accompanied by Resolution, Senate No. 772, calling upon the U.S. Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to restore the First Amendment and fair elections to the people, and

WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Tom Udall of New Mexico with 22 cosponsors has introduced Senate Joint Resolution 29, "proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections," that would give the Congress and the states the authority to regulate the raising and spending of moneys with respect to elections,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Newton Board of Aldermen that the Board of Aldermen expresses its disagreement with the holdings of the U.S. Supreme Court in *Buckley* and in *Citizens United* that money is speech, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Aldermen urges the General Court of Massachusetts to adopt Senate No. 772, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Aldermen urges Congress to adopt Senate Joint Resolution 29, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board of Aldermen be directed to send a copy of this RESOLUTION to the Massachusetts
Congressional Delegation and to the General Court of Massachusetts.

Northampton
Passed 4/19/2012

(text from Northampton City Council website, passage confirmed by media report)

In City Council, April 19, 2012, Upon the Recommendation of City Council President William H. Dwight, Councilor Jesse M. Adams, Councilor
Maureen T. Carney, Councilor Pamela C. Schwartz and Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge, and Northampton Human Rights Commission

Resolution to Amend the Constitution of the United States

WHEREAS, We the people adopted and ratified the United States Constitution to protect the free speech and other rights of people, not corporations;

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

WHEREAS, for the past three decades, a divided United States Supreme Court has erroneously transformed the First Amendment into a powerful tool
for corporations seeking to evade and invalidate the people's laws;

WHEREAS, this corporate misuse of the First Amendment and Constitution has reached an extreme conclusion in the United States Supreme Court's
ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission;

WHEREAS, Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations from spending corporate
general treasury funds in our elections;

WHEREAS, Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission unleashes a torrent of corporate money in our political process unmatched by any
campaign expenditure totals in United States history;

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

WHEREAS, Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission presents a serious and direct threat to our republican democracy;

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 self- government; and

WHEREAS, the people and states of the United States of America have strengthened the nation and preserved liberty and equality for all by using the
amendment process throughout our history, including in seven of the ten decades of the 20th Century, and including to reverse seven erroneous
Supreme Court decisions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Northampton, Massachusetts, acting in the spirit and history of our community, does hereby

	<p>declare that we call upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a Constitutional Amendment to reverse the Citizen United v. Federal Election Commission decision and thereby restore Constitutional rights and fair elections to the people. To that end, the Mayor shall send copies of this resolution to Massachusetts State Representative Peter Kocot, Massachusetts State Senator Stanley Rosenberg, Governor Deval Patrick, United States Congressman Richard Neal and United States Senators John Kerry and Scott Brown, the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary, the House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary, the United States Attorney General, Eric H. Holder Jr., and the President of the United States, Barack Obama.</p>
<p>Oak Bluffs Passed 4/10/2012</p>	<p>(from town meeting warrant; same text as Edgartown, Oak Bluffs, Aquinnah; passage confirmed by town clerk)</p> <p>Article 17:</p> <p>To see if the town will vote to instruct the Selectmen to communicate to the Massachusetts State Senate and House the support of the citizens of the town of Oak Bluffs for Senate Bill 772, Restoring Free Speech, which is as follows: [text of state S.772 follows as part of the resolution]</p>
<p>Orleans Passed 5/9/2011</p>	<p>(from town meeting warrant, passage confirmed by town meeting minutes)</p> <p>ARTICLE 34. RESOLUTION – ALLOW CONGRESS TO REVOKE CONDITIONS OF CORPORATE AND UNION CAMPAIGN FUNDING</p> <p>We, the voters of the Orleans Town Meeting, affirm our belief that the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not corporations.</p> <p>We believe that the United States Supreme Court’s ruling in Citizens United v. FEC, which allows corporations and unions to pay advocacy groups unlimited funds to influence elections, threatens democracy by allowing corporations to cause the election of candidates who will serve themselves, not ordinary citizens.</p> <p>The people of the United States through their legislators have previously amended the Constitution to regulate elections and federal officeholding nine times.</p> <p>NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE VOTERS OF THE ORLEANS TOWN MEETING, CALL UPON THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS AND SEND TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO RESTORE THE FIRST AMENDMENT AND FAIR ELECTIONS TO THE PEOPLE, AND FURTHER, WE CALL UPON THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT TO PASS ONE OR MORE RESOLUTIONS ASKING THOSE ACTIONS.</p> <p>We ask Orleans officials to send a copy of this resolution to the state and federal representatives and senators serving Orleans, and to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the President of the United States.</p> <p>SUMMARY</p> <p>The Supreme Court’s Jan. 21, 2010 Citizens United (CU) v. Federal Election Commission (FEC) decision allows domestic and foreign-based corporations and unions to pay advocacy groups unlimited funds to influence elections. Corporate treasuries dwarf treasuries of unions, individuals and public interest groups, thus allowing corporations to potentially cause the election of candidates who will serve them, not ordinary people. The Supreme Court decision is undemocratic: in a democracy the people rule, and the only way to overrule this decision is by amending the Constitution of the United States. This non-binding resolution asks that Congress pass and send to the states for ratification a Constitutional Amendment allowing</p>

Congress the right to revoke corporations' and unions' right to spend unlimited funds to influence elections, and supports Massachusetts legislative efforts to bring that about. It would not affect the free-speech rights of human beings, including corporate and union officials, to advocate and spend money for their political goals.

Otis
Passed 5/15/2012

(Text from town meeting warrant; passage confirmed by Otis initiative contact person)

ARTICLE 26

To see if the Town will adopt:

A Nonbinding Resolution Calling Upon the United States Congress to Pass and Send to the States for Ratification, a Constitutional Amendment to Restore the First Amendment and Fair Elections to the People.

We, the voters at the 2012 Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Otis, affirm our belief that the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not corporations.

The United States Supreme Court's 2010 decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations and unions from spending their general treasury funds in public elections. We believe that the ruling created a serious and direct threat to our democracy and the conduct of free and fair elections, by permitting corporations to drown out the voices of ordinary persons. Already we have seen our political process flooded with newly unleashed corporate money, resulting in historically unprecedented campaign expenditures.

The people of the United States have previously used the Constitutional Amendment process to correct decisions of the United States Supreme Court that invade or invalidate democratic institutions, including elections.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE VOTERS AT THE 2012 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF THE TOWN OF OTIS, CALL UPON THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS AND SEND TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO RESTORE THE FIRST AMENDMENT AND FAIR ELECTIONS TO THE PEOPLE, AND FURTHER, WE CALL UPON THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT TO PASS ONE OR MORE RESOLUTIONS ASKING FOR THOSE ACTIONS.

[Officials of the Town of Otis shall send a copy of this resolution to the state and federal representatives serving the Town of Otis, and to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the president of the United States.]

<p>Pelham Passed 5/5/2012</p>	<p>(text provided by Pelham initiative contact person, who confirmed passage)</p> <p>We, the voters of the Pelham Town Meeting, affirm our belief that the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not corporations.</p> <p>We believe that the United States Supreme Court’s ruling in Citizens United v. FEC, which allows corporations and unions to give unlimited funds to advocacy groups to influence elections, and the billions of dollars corporations spend in lobbying, greatly outweighing amounts spent by unions and public-interest groups, threaten democracy by allowing corporations to cause the election of candidates who will serve themselves, not ordinary citizens.</p> <p>The people of the United States through their legislators have previously amended the Constitution to regulate elections and federal officeholding nine times.</p> <p>NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE VOTERS OF THE PELHAM TOWN MEETING, CALL UPON THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS AND SEND TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO SPECIFY THAT CONSTITUTIONAL PERSONHOOD RIGHTS ARE FOR NATURAL PERSONS ONLY, AND TO RESTORE THE PEOPLES RIGHTS TO FAIRNESS IN ELECTIONS AND INFLUENCE ON GOVERNMENT POLICY, AND FURTHER, WE CALL UPON THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT TO PASS ONE OR MORE RESOLUTIONS ASKING THOSE ACTIONS.</p> <p>We ask Pelham officials to send a copy of this resolution to the state and federal representatives and senators serving Pelham, and to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the President of the United States.</p>
<p>Pittsfield Passed 8/14/2012</p>	<p>(text of petition submitted to City Council, as printed in City Council meeting agenda; passage confirmed by Pittsfield initiative contact person. Need to confirm final version of text passed (City Council meeting minutes not posted on Pittsfield website as of 12/2012)</p> <p>The undersigned petition the Pittsfield City Council to pass a resolution calling on the US Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment overturning the Supreme Court decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission and restoring constitutional rights and fair elections to the people.</p>
<p>Provincetown Passed 4/4/2011</p>	<p>(text and passage confirmation from town meeting minutes)</p> <p>ARTICLE 33. Rescind the Supreme Court Decision.</p> <p>We, the voters of the Provincetown Town Meeting, affirm our belief that the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not corporations.</p> <p>We believe that the United States Supreme Court’s ruling in Citizens United v.FEC, which allows corporations and unions unlimited funds to influence elections, threatens democracy by allowing corporations to cause the election of candidates who will serve corporations, not the public. The people of the United States through their legislators have previously amended the Constitution to regulate elections and federal officeholding nine times.</p> <p>To see if the Town will vote the following Resolution:</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE VOTERS OF THE PROVINCETOWN TOWN MEETING, CALL UPON THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS AND SEND TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO RESTORE THE FIRST AMENDMENT AND FAIR ELECTIONS TO THE PEOPLE, AND FURTHER, WE CALL UPON THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT TO PASS ONE OR MORE RESOLUTIONS ASKING THOSE ACTIONS.</p>

	<p>We also ask Provincetown officials to send a copy of this resolution to the state and federal representatives and senators serving Provincetown, and to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the President of the United States, or take any other action relative thereto. [Requested by Barbara Rushmore and others]</p>
<p>Quincy Passed 6/4/2012</p>	<p>(text from City Council agenda, passage confirmed by City Council minutes, 4 councilors in favor, 4 voting "present", 1 absent)</p> <p>RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT A CALL FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT OVERTURNING THE "CITIZENS UNITED DECISION"</p> <p>WHEREAS, a Supreme Court ruling made in January 2010 prohibited the government from restricting political payments from corporations; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, one effect from the ruling, as cited in written commentary refuting the equity of allowing corporations to donate unlimited funds to candidates or political parties, has been the creation of Super Political Action Committees; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, many states and cities have enacted resolutions opposing the perceived corporate control of elections and are urging Congress to amend the U.S. Constitution and ban corporate personhood; and</p> <p>WHEREAS Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) has introduced a constitution [sic] amendment to overturn the Citizens United Decision by the Supreme Court and redefine "corporate personhood" and Representative Ted Deutch (D-Florida) has introduced the same amendment in the House,</p> <p>NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council [sic] of the City of Quincy, Norfolk County, State of Massachusetts, that it strongly supports a constitutional amendment calling for the overturning of Citizens United Decision of January 2010 and calls upon the legislature to take action on same; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to Senators John Kerry and Scott Brown and Representative William Keating.</p>
<p>Reading Passed 4/30/2012</p>	<p>(text from town meeting warrant, passage confirmed by town clerk)</p> <p>ARTICLE 18</p> <p>To see if the Town will adopt the following resolution:</p> <p>We, the voters at the 2012 Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Reading, affirm our belief that the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not corporations.</p> <p>The United States Supreme Court's 2010 decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations and unions from spending their general treasury funds in public elections. We believe that the ruling created a serious and direct threat to our democracy and the conduct of free and fair elections, by permitting corporations and others to drown out the voices of ordinary persons. Already we have seen our political process flooded with newly unleashed corporate and other money, resulting in historically unprecedented campaign</p>

	<p>expenditures.</p> <p>The people of the United States have previously used the Constitutional Amendment process to correct decisions of the United States Supreme Court that invade or invalidate democratic institutions, including elections.</p> <p>NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE VOTERS AT THE 2012 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF THE TOWN OF READING, CALL UPON THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS AND SEND TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO RESTORE THE FIRST AMENDMENT AND FAIR ELECTIONS TO THE PEOPLE, AND FURTHER, WE CALL UPON THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT TO PASS ONE OR MORE RESOLUTIONS ASKING FOR THOSE ACTIONS.</p> <p>The Town Clerk of the Town of Reading shall send a copy of this resolution to the state and federal representatives and senators serving the Town of Reading, and to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the President of the United States, and take any other appropriate action relative thereto.</p> <p>Or take any other action with respect thereto.</p>
<p>Richmond Passed 5/23/2012</p>	<p>(passage confirmed by Richmond initiative contact person, text to come)</p>
<p>Rockport Passed 9/11/2012</p>	<p>(text from town meeting warrant, passage confirmed by Rockport initiative contact person)</p> <p>We the citizens of Rockport, Massachusetts, respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to pass an Amendment to the Constitution that would affirm that corporations are not entitled to the constitutional rights of human beings, and that both Congress and State governments may place limits, on both political contributions and spending, from any source.</p>
<p>Rowe Passed 5/14/2012</p>	<p>(text from town meeting warrant, passage confirmed by Rowe initiative contact person)</p> <p>ARTICLE 26.</p> <p>To see if the Town will vote to act on the following RESOLUTION:</p> <p>WHEREAS, the United States Constitution and the Bill fo Rights are intended to protect the rights of individual human beings ("real people"); and</p> <p>WHEREAS, corporations are not mentioned in the Constitution and The People have never granted constitutional rights to corporations;</p> <p>WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission presents a serious threat to self-government by allowing unlimited corporate spending to influence elections;</p> <p>WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution empowers and obligates the people of the United States of America to use the constitutional amendment process to correct egregiously wrong decisions of the United States Sureme Court that go to the heart of our democracy;</p> <p>NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the voters of Rowe, Massachusetts hereby instruct the senators representing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the member of the United States House of Representatives representing this congressional district to propose, and our state legislators to ratify, and amendment to the United States Constitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the constitutional rights of real people and that money is not speech for purposes of campaign-related expenditures and contributions.</p>

<p>Salem Passed 5/10/2012</p>	<p>(passage confirmed by Salem initiative contact person; text to come; not included in City Council meeting agenda or minutes. Email sent to City Council office 12/2012 requesting resolution text.)</p>
<p>Sharon Passed 12/3/2012</p>	<p>(text from town meeting warrant, passage confirmed by Sharon initiative contact person and local media)</p> <p>To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution:</p> <p>To call upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the States for ratification an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that would firmly establish two principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Only human beings, not artificial entities such as corporations, are entitled to the rights and privileges guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. 2) Election spending is not free speech guaranteed by the First Amendment, and is therefore subject to regulation by federal and state governments.
<p>Sheffield Passed 5/7/2012</p>	<p>(text from town meeting warrant, passage confirmed by Sheffield initiative contact person)</p> <p>ARTICLE 30.</p> <p>The First Amendment of the Constitution was designed to protect the free_speech rights of individuals (“natural persons”) not corporations. Recent United States Supreme Court decisions have opened the door for corporations to make unlimited expenditures for advocacy in favor or against political candidates and issues. Many see this development as not only a further erosion of the influences of individuals in the political process, also as – in essence – a corporate takeover of the First Amendment.</p> <p>This ruling in Citizens United v. FEC, has already unleashed a torrent of corporate money in our political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in the history of this great nation; therefore, this ruling represents a serious and direct threat to our democracy “Of the people, by the people and for the people”. The people of the United States have used the constitutional amendment process to correct harmful decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court that go to the heart of our democracy and self government. It is for this reason that we present the following resolution to the voters of Sheffield.</p> <p>Be it resolved that the voters of Sheffield, Massachusetts call upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the States for ratification, a Constitutional Amendment banning corporations, limited liability corporations and any other corporate entities from all and any expenditure of funds for political speech and elections, or if not, to at least regulate such with punitive assurances.</p>
<p>Shelburne Passed 5/3</p>	<p>(petition text from Shelburne initiative contact person, who confirmed passage)</p> <p>To see if the town will vote to instruct our members of Congress to support an amendment to the United States Constitution to clarify that corporations do not have the same rights as people and that money is not speech for purposes of election-related spending, and/or take any action relative thereto.</p> <p>WHEREAS, the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights are intended to protect the rights of individual human beings (“real people”); and, WHEREAS, corporations are not mentioned in the Constitution and The People have never granted constitutional rights to corporations;</p> <p>WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission presents a serious threat to self-government by allowing unlimited corporate spending to influence elections;</p> <p>WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution empowers and obligates the people of the United States of America to use the constitutional amendment process to correct egregiously wrong decisions of the United States Supreme Court that go to the heart of our democracy;</p>

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the voters of Shelburne, Massachusetts hereby instruct the Senators representing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the member of the United States House of Representatives representing this Congressional District to propose and our state legislators to ratify an amendment to the United States Constitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the constitutional rights of real people and that money is not speech for purposes of campaign-related expenditures and contributions.

The text of the proposed amendment is as follows:

Amendment

Section 1 [A corporation is not a person and can be regulated]

The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only.

Artificial entities, such as corporations, limited liability companies, and other entities, established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state shall have no rights under this Constitution and are subject to regulation by the People, through Federal, State, or local law.

The privileges of artificial entities shall be determined by the People, through Federal, State, or local law, and shall not be construed to be inherent or inalienable.

Section 2 [Money is not speech and can be regulated].

Federal, State and local government shall regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures, including a candidate's own contributions and expenditures, for the purpose of influencing in any way the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure.

Federal, State and local government shall require that any permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed.

The judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to influence elections to be speech under the First Amendment.

Nothing contained in this amendment shall be construed to abridge the freedom of the press.

Shutesbury
Passed 5/5/2012

(text from town meeting warrant, passage confirmed by Shutesbury initiative contact person)

Article 22.

Resolution: Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in Response to the Campaign of Corporate Interests Promoting "Corporate Personhood"

WHEREAS, Wethe people adopted and ratified the United States Constitution to protect the free speech and other rights of people, not corporation;

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

WHEREAS, for the past three decades, a divided United States Supreme Court has erroneously transformed the First Amendment into a powerful tool for corporations seeking to evade and invalidate the people's laws;

WHEREAS, this corporate misuse of the First Amendment and Constitution has reached a new extreme in the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission;

WHEREAS, Citizen United v. Federal Election Commission unleashes a torrent of corporate money in our political process unmatched by any campaign by any campaign expenditure totals

WHEREAS, Citizen United v. Federal Election Commission an all other potential torrents of money that dominate and undermine democratic elections, present serious and direct threats to the integrity of the electoral system in our republican democracy;

WHEREAS, the people of the states of the United States of America have strengthened the nation and preserved liberty and equality for all by using the amendment process throughout our history, including in seven of the ten decades of the 20th Century, and including to reverse seven erroneous

	<p>Supreme Court decisions.</p> <p>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE PETITION THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE TO PASS RESOLUTION S 772 CALLING UPON THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS AND SEND TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TO REVERSE CITIZEN UNITED V. FERREAL [FEDERAL] ELECTION COMMISSION, 2. TO ASSERT THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PEOPLE'S WILL TO BE FOREVER ABOVE [ABOVE] THE CORRUPTING INFLUENCE OF MONEY THAT CURRENTLY LEVERAGES ACCESS AND INFLUENCE IN OUR ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND 3. TO RESTORE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND FAIR ELECTIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES. <p>By the People of SHUTESBURY, MASSACHUSETTS At the Annual Town Meeting, on 5th May, 2012</p>
<p>Somerset Passed 5/21</p>	<p>(Text provided by Town Clerk's office, which confirmed passage)</p> <p>Article 48:</p> <p>To see if the town will vote to petition Congress to approve US HJ Res. 88 introduced by Hon. James McGovern, D-MA. This legislation begins the process of amending the Constitution of the United States of America. If passed and ratified, the amendment would end the legal status of corporations as persons, and stop the current practice of unlimited independent congressional campaign funding with money that comes from undisclosed sources.</p> <p>HJ RES. 88</p> <p>Section 1. We the people who ordain and establish this Constitution intend the rights protected by this Constitution to be the rights of natural persons.</p> <p>Section 2. The words people, person, or citizen as used in this Constitution do not include corporations, limited liability companies or other corporate entities established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state, and such corporate entities are subject to such regulation as the people, through their elected State and Federal representatives, deem reasonable and are otherwise consistent with the powers of Congress and the States under this Constitution.</p> <p>Section 3. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to limit the people's rights of freedom of speech, freedom of the press, free exercise of religion, freedom of association and all such other rights of the people, which rights are inalienable.</p>
<p>Somerville Passed 10/13/2011</p>	<p>(Board of Aldermen resolution, text and passage confirmation from city website)</p> <p>WHEREAS, The real average hourly wage of America's workers has been declining since 1972; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, The gap in income distribution in the United States has never been this concentrated among the wealthy since the Great Depression; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, The corporate profits' share of the gross domestic product during the past years is greater than it has been in the last 60 years so that corporate profits have been totally divorced from the economic fortunes of the American people; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, The top 1% of Americans control 47% of the financial wealth of America and the bottom 80% control only 7% of the financial wealth of America, as an example, in 1978 chief executive officers of corporations in the United States earned 35 times more than the average worker. By 2000 they earned 300 times the average pay; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, A fair and balanced presentation of information is a fundamental necessity for a democratic government to function; and</p>

WHEREAS, This concentration of wealth among a small percentage of the American public creates severe inequality in the unbiased flow of information that is provided to the American public because of the control of corporate media by the wealthy elite; and

WHEREAS, This concentration of wealth among a small percentage of the American public also creates a severe inequality in the unbiased flow of information that is provided to the American public because of the ability of the wealthy elite to fund and influence electoral campaigns to promote policies that will continue this concentration of wealth among the elite; and

WHEREAS, As Bill Moyers has written, “astonishing as it seems, scarcely anyone in official Washington seems to be troubled by a gap between rich and poor that is greater than it has been in half a century....Equality and inequality are words that have been all but expunged from the political vocabulary.”; and

WHEREAS, We, the people, adopted and ratified the United States Constitution to protect the free speech and other rights of people, not corporations; and

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

WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court, in its decision Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, overturned long standing precedent prohibiting corporations from spending corporate general treasury funds in our elections; and

WHEREAS, Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission unleashes 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 even state Constitutional provisions separating corporate money from elections; and

WHEREAS, Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission presents a serious and direct threat to our republican democracy by further reducing the fair and balanced flow of information necessary for a democracy to function, especially in light of the already unequal distribution of wealth in the Country, and can only lead to a worsening of the income distribution in this 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 self-government; and

WHEREAS, The people and states of the United States of America have used the amendment process to strengthen the nation and preserve liberty and equality and to reverse erroneous Supreme Court decisions that weaken this liberty and equality; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the City of Somerville hereby joins other communities across the country and calls upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification, a constitutional amendment to reverse Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission and to restore constitutional rights and fair elections to the people; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, That it supports the resolution offered by Massachusetts State Senator Eldridge and others, Senate Docket 01488.

[Note: 01488 was the docket number of senate bill S772]

Springfield
Passed 7/16/2012

(Text supplied by City Councilor Fenton, who confirmed passage)

WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not corporations, 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 takeover of the First Amendment has reached its extreme conclusion in the United States Supreme Court's recent ruling in Citizens United v. FEC, and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court ruling in Citizens United v. FEC overturned long standing precedent prohibiting corporations from spending their general treasury funds in our elections, and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court ruling in Citizens United v. FEC will now unleash a torrent of corporate money in our political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in United States history, and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court ruling in Citizens United v. FEC presents a serious and direct threat to our democracy, and

WHEREAS, the people of the United States have previously used 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 self-government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Springfield City Council hereby joins the over 66 other cities and towns across the Commonwealth who have called for a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United. Specifically, the City Council hereby formally urges the Massachusetts General Court to pass resolution S.772 which calls on Congress to pass (and send to the states for ratification) a constitutional amendment to restore the First Amendment and fair elections to the people.

Stockbridge
Passed 5/21/2012

(Text supplied by Stockbridge initiative contact person, who confirmed passage)

ARTICLE 27.

To see if the Town will vote to support a resolution to call upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to reverse the Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission and to restore democracy to the people, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

In a 5-4 ruling in Citizens United v Federal Election Commission, the Supreme Court held that corporations have a First Amendment right to spend unlimited amounts of money from their treasuries to support or oppose candidates for elected office. Prohibitions on corporate political donations, according to the court, violate the First Amendment-guaranteed free speech rights of corporations. This ruling essentially established that corporations – including foreign corporations – should be treated as natural persons in the political process; thus, they may intervene directly in elections through unrestricted and undisclosed contributions, mitigating the power of voters.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, We the people adopted and ratified the United States Constitution to protect the free speech and other rights of "natural persons," not corporations;

WHEREAS, Corporations are not people but rather organizations created and established by laws;

WHEREAS, only living persons have constitutional rights;

WHEREAS, for the past three decades, decisions by a divided United States Supreme Court have erroneously transformed the First Amendment into a

powerful tool that abets corporations seeking to evade and invalidate the people's laws to influence elections and the legislative process;

WHEREAS, corporate misuse of the First Amendment and Constitution is carried to an extreme in the United States Supreme Court's recent ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission that corporations should be treated as natural persons in the political process;

WHEREAS, Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission overturns longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations from spending unlimited and undisclosed funds in our elections;

WHEREAS, Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission presents a serious and direct threat to our republican democracy and, in essence, a corporate takeover of the First Amendment;

WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution empowers and obligates the people and states of the United States of America to use the amendment process to correct egregious decisions of the United States Supreme Court;

Now be it resolved that the Town of Stockbridge, Massachusetts hereby calls upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment that Congress and the States may regulate corporate expenditures to reverse Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission and to restore constitutional rights and fair elections to the people.

Now be it further resolved that the Town Clerk be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Sen. Scott P. Brown and Sen. John F. Kerry and to Congressional Representative John Olver, Mass State Senator Benjamin Downing and Mass State Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli.

Stoughton
Passed 7/10/2012

(Text supplied by Stoughton initiative contact person; he and local media confirmed passage by Board of Selectmen)

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT A CALL FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT OVERTURNING THE "CITIZENS UNITED DECISION"

WHEREAS, a Supreme Court ruling made in January 2010 prohibited the government from restricting political payments from corporations; and

WHEREAS, one effect from the ruling, as cited in written commentary refuting the equity of allowing corporations to donate unlimited funds to candidates or political parties, has been the creation of Super Political Action Committees; and

WHEREAS, many states and cities have enacted resolutions opposing the perceived corporate control of elections and are urging Congress to amend the United States Constitution and ban corporate personhood; and

WHEREAS, Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) has introduced a constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United Decision by the Supreme Court and redefine "corporate personhood" and Representative Ted Deutch (D-Florida) has introduced the same amendment in the House,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Selectmen of the Town of Stoughton, Norfolk County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, that it strongly supports a constitutional amendment calling for the overturning of Citizens United Decision of January 2010 and calls upon the legislature to take action on same; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to Senators John Kerry and Scott Brown and Representative Stephen Lynch.

Swampscott
Passed 5/7

(text from town meeting warrant, passage confirmed by media coverage)

ARTICLE 10

To request the Town of Swampscott to approve the following resolution to call upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission and to restore democracy to the people.

In a 5-4 ruling in the Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, the Supreme Court held for the first time that corporations, both for-profit and not-for-profit, and unions have a First Amendment right to spend unlimited amounts from their treasuries to support or oppose candidates for elected office. Prohibitions on corporate political donations, according to the court, violate the First Amendment-guaranteed free speech rights of corporations. This ruling essentially established that according to the meaning and intent of the First Amendment, corporations should be treated as natural persons and that money equals free speech. While special interest money waqs always a concern in elections, corporations - including foreign corporations - may now intervene directly in elections, taking power away from voters.

Resolution

Whereas, government of, by, and for the people has long been a cherished American value, and We The People's fundamental and inalienable right to self-govern is guaranteed in the US Constitution; and

Whereas, corporations are not mentioned in the Constitution, and The People have never granted constitutional rights to corporations, nor have We decreed that corporations have authority that exceeds the authority of We The People of the United States;

Whereas, corporations are not and have never been human beings, and therefore are rightfully subservient to human beings and governments as our legal creations;

Whereas, the recent Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission Supreme Court decision that rolled back the legal limits on corporate spending in the electoral process creates an unequal playing field for We thePeople and allows unlimited corporate spending to influence elections, candidate selection, and policy decisions;

Whereas, free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective self-governance;

Therefore be it resolved that it is the sense of the Town of Swampscott, in Town Meeting assembled, that the Constitution of the United States ought to be amended to effect that, corporations are not people and do not have the same constitutional rights as human beings, the people have the right to regulate corporations, corporations are prohibited from making campaign contributions, and Congress and states shall have the power to set reasonable limits on election spending.

Be it further resolved that the Town of Swampscott, Massachusetts calls on other communities and jurisdictions to join with us in this action by passing similar Resolutions.

Tisbury
Passed 4/10/2012

(text to come; not on warrant, but raised and passed, per Tisbury initiative contact person)

Truro
Passed 4/26/2011

(from FSFP website & town meeting warrant, passage confirmed by town clerk)

Article 29: Nonbinding Resolution Calling Upon the United States Congress to Pass and Send to the States for Ratification, a Constitutional Amendment to Restore the First Amendment and Fair Elections to the People.

To see if the Town will vote to adopt a nonbinding resolution calling upon the United States Congress to Pass and Send to the states for ratification, a constitutional amendment to restore the first amendment and fair elections to the people.

We, the voters at the 2011 Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Truro, affirm our belief that the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not corporations.

The United States Supreme Court's 2010 decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations and unions from spending their general treasury funds in public elections. We believe that the ruling created a serious and direct threat to our democracy and the conduct of free and fair elections, by permitting corporations to drown out the voices of ordinary persons. Already we have seen our political process flooded with newly unleashed corporate money, resulting in historically unprecedented campaign expenditures.

The people of the United States have previously used the Constitutional Amendment process to correct decisions of the United States Supreme Court that invade or invalidate democratic institutions, including elections.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE VOTERS AT THE 2011 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF THE TOWN OF TRURO, CALL UPON THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS AND SEND TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO RESTORE THE FIRST AMENDMENT AND FAIR ELECTIONS TO THE PEOPLE, AND FURTHER, WE CALL UPON THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT TO PASS ONE OR MORE RESOLUTIONS ASKING THOSE ACTIONS.

[Officials of the Town of Truro shall send a copy of this resolution to the state and federal representatives and senators serving the Town of Truro, and to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the President of the United States.]

Comment:

The Supreme Court's 2010 decision in the Citizens United case held that corporations and unions can spend unlimited amounts of money advocating the election or defeat of candidates for office. That decision allows corporations (including huge multinational or foreign-based ones) to spend many millions of dollars to influence United States elections, dwarfing the resources and thus the voices of individuals, unions, and public-interest groups. The only way to revoke this newly granted corporate influence over elections is by amending the Constitution of the United States. This would not affect the free-speech rights of real persons (human beings), including individual officials of corporations or of other organizations, to advocate and spend their own money to further their political goals.

Warren
Passed 5/8/2012

(text from citizens' petition posted on Warren town website, passage confirmed by Warren initiative contact person)

WHEREAS, We the people adopted and ratified the United States Constitution to protect the free speech and other rights of people, not corporations;
WHEREAS, Corporations are not people but instead are entities created by the law of states and nations;

WHEREAS, for the past three decades, a divided United States Supreme Court has erroneously transformed the First Amendment into a powerful tool for corporations seeking to evade and invalidate the people's laws;

WHEREAS, this corporate misuse of the First Amendment and Constitution has reached an extreme conclusion in the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission;

WHEREAS, this ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations from spending corporate general treasury funds in our elections; • unleashes a torrent of corporate money in our political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in United States history; • purports to invalidate state laws and even state Constitutional provisions separating corporate money from elections; • and presents a serious and direct threat to our republican democracy; <p>WHEREAS, Article V of the U.S. Constitution empowers and obligates the people and states of the United States of America to use the constitutional amendment process to correct egregious decisions of the United States Supreme Court that go to the heart of our democracy and self-government; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the people and states of the United States of America have strengthened the national and preserved liberty and equality for all by using the amendment process throughout our history, including in seven of the ten decades of the 20th Century, to reverse seven erroneous Supreme Court decisions.</p> <p>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE RESIDENTS OF WARREN, MASSACHUSETTS CALL UPON THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS AND SEND TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REVERSE CITIZENS UNITED V. FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION AND TO RESTORE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND FAIR ELECTIONS TO THE PEOPLE.</p>
<p>Warwick Passed 5/7/2012</p>	<p>(from town meeting warrant, passage confirmed by Warwick initiative contact person)</p> <p>ARTICLE 26:</p> <p>Shall the Town petition the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation and the U.S. Congress to propose a U.S. Constitutional amendment for the States' consideration that provides that money is not speech and that corporations are not persons under the U.S. Constitution; further that the Town of Warwick petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to pass a similar resolution; and that the town send its resolution to Massachusetts State and Federal representatives within thirty days of passage of this measure</p> <p>or take any other action related thereto?</p>
<p>Watertown Passed 12/11/2012</p>	<p>(Town Council voted to sent a letter to Watertown's state and federal legislators; text of letter to come)</p>
<p>Wellfleet Passed 4/26/2011</p>	<p>(from Free Speech For People website, passage confirmed by town meeting minutes)</p> <p>A Nonbinding Resolution Calling Upon the United States Congress to Pass and Send to the States for Ratification, a Constitutional Amendment to Restore the First Amendment and Fair Elections to the People.</p> <p>We, the voters at the 2011 Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Wellfleet, affirm our belief that the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not corporations.</p> <p>The United States Supreme Court's 2010 decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations and unions from spending their general treasury funds in public elections. We believe that the ruling created a serious and direct threat to our democracy and the conduct of free and fair elections, by permitting corporations to drown out the voices of ordinary persons. Already we have seen our political process flooded with newly unleashed corporate money, resulting in historically unprecedented campaign expenditures.</p>

	<p>The people of the United States have previously used the Constitutional Amendment process to correct decisions of the United States Supreme Court that invade or invalidate democratic institutions, including elections.</p> <p>NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE VOTERS AT THE 2011 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF THE TOWN OF WELLFLEET, CALL UPON THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS AND SEND TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO RESTORE THE FIRST AMENDMENT AND FAIR ELECTIONS TO THE PEOPLE, AND FURTHER, WE CALL UPON THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT TO PASS ONE OR MORE RESOLUTIONS ASKING THOSE ACTIONS.</p> <p>[Officials of the Town of Wellfleet shall send a copy of this resolution to the state and federal representatives and senators serving the Town of Wellfleet, and to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the President of the United States.]</p>
<p>Wendell Passed 6/4/2012</p>	<p>(text from town meeting warrant, passage confirmed by Wendell initiative contact person)</p> <p>ARTICLE 26: To see if the town will vote to adopt the following resolution or take any action there on:</p> <p>We, the citizens of Wendell offer this RESOLUTION to see if the Town will direct the Town Clerk to relay to Representative Kulik and Senator Rosenberg that the citizens of Wendell have voted in support of their sponsoring legislation calling for a state convention to support the amendment of the United States Constitution (according to Article 5 of the Constitution) as follows:</p> <p>SECTION 1. The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons and do not extend to for-profit corporations, limited liability companies, or other private entities established for business purposes or to promote business interests under the laws of any state, the United States, or any foreign state.</p> <p>SECTION 2. Such corporate and other private entities established under law are subject to regulation by the people through the legislative process so long as such regulations are consistent with the powers of Congress and the States and do not limit the freedom of the press.</p> <p>SECTION 3. Such corporate and other private entities shall be prohibited from making contributions or expenditures in any election of any candidate for public office or the vote upon any ballot measure submitted to the people.</p> <p>SECTION 4. Congress and the States shall have the power to regulate and set limits on all election contributions and expenditures, including a candidate's own spending, and to authorize the establishment of political committees to receive, spend, and publicly disclose the sources of those contributions and expenditures.”</p> <p>And to furthermore direct the Town Clerk to relay to Senators Kerry and Brown that the citizens of Wendell have voted in support of their proposing the above article to the states for ratification to amend the United States Constitution.</p>
<p>Westport Passed 5/3/2012</p>	<p>(text from town meeting warrant; passage confirmed by Westport initiative contact person)</p> <p>ARTICLE 49</p> <p>To see if the Town will vote to petition Congress to approve US HJ Res. 88 introduced by Hon. James McGovern, D-MA. This legislation begins the process of amending the constitution of the United States of America. If passed and ratified, the amendment would end the legal status of corporations as persons, and stop the current practice of unlimited independent congressional campaign funding with money that comes from undisclosed sources.</p> <p>HJ RES. 88</p> <p>Section 1. We the people who ordain and establish this constitution intend the rights protected by this Constitution to be the rights of natural persons.</p>

	<p>Section 2. The words people, person, or citizen as used in this constitution do not include corporations, limited liability companies or other corporate entities established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state, and such corporate entities are subject to such regulation as the people, through their elected State and federal representatives, deem reasonable and are otherwise consistent with the powers of Congress and the States under this Constitution.</p> <p>Section 3. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to limit the people's rights of freedom of speech, freedom of the press, free exercise of religion, freedom of association and all such other rights of the people, which rights are inalienable.</p>
<p>West Brookfield Passed 10/16/2012</p>	<p>(text from town meeting warrant; passage confirmed by West Brookfield initiative contact person)</p> <p>The Town of West Brookfield calls upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to reverse the Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission and to restore constitutional rights and fair elections to the people.</p>
<p>West Newbury Passed 4/30 2012</p>	<p>(text to come, passage confirmed by West Newbury initiative contact person)</p>
<p>West Tisbury Passed 4/10/2012</p>	<p>(text to come; resolution was not on warrant, but raised and passed; passage confirmed by town meeting minutes but text not in minutes)</p>
<p>Williamstown Passed 5/17/2011</p>	<p>(from Free Speech For People website, passage confirmed by minutes of town meeting)</p> <p>Article 36.</p> <p>To request the Town of Williamstown to approve the following resolution to call upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission and to restore democracy to the people.</p> <p>In a 5-4 ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, the Supreme Court held for the first time that corporations, both for-profit and not-for-profit, and unions have a First Amendment right to spend unlimited amounts from their treasuries to support or oppose candidates for elected office. Prohibitions on corporate political donations, according to the court, violate the First Amendment-guaranteed free speech rights of corporations. This ruling essentially established that according to meaning and intent of the First Amendment, corporations should be treated as natural persons and that money equals free speech. While special interest money was always a concern in elections, corporations-including foreign corporations-may now intervene directly in elections, taking power away from voters.</p> <p>RESOLUTION</p> <p>WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not corporations;</p> <p>WHEREAS, for the past three decades, the United States Supreme Court has transformed the First Amendment into a powerful tool for corporations seeking to evade and invalidate democratically-enacted reforms;</p> <p>WHEREAS, this corporate takeover of the First Amendment has reached its extreme conclusion in the United States Supreme Court's recent ruling in Citizens United v FEC, overturning longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations from spending their general treasury funds in our elections;</p> <p>WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. FEC will now unleash a torrent of corporate money in our political</p>

process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in United States history;

WHEREAS, the people of the United States have previously used 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 self-government;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Williamstown, Williamstown, Massachusetts hereby calls upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to restore the First Amendment and fair elections to the people.

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Williamstown's Congressional Representative (John Olver), Mass State Senator (Benjamin Downing), and Mass State Representative (Gailanne Carridi).

[Moved by Elizabeth Smith, seconded, discussed, carried by a majority voice vote]

Worcester
Passed 5/15

(Text from Worcester City Council webpage; passage confirmed by Worcester resolution contact person and media)

WHEREAS: The Worcester City Council is committed to ensuring the rights of all individual Worcester Voters and believes that those participating Worcester voters, along with individual voters across America, should be the only decision makers in our election process; and

WHEREAS: The recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission presents a serious and direct threat to the role and influence of individual voters in Worcester and across America ...

- Overturning longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations from spending corporate general treasury funds in our elections;
- Unleashing a torrent of corporate money in our political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in United States history; and
- Invalidating state laws and even state Constitutional provisions separating corporate money from elections;

WHEREAS: We the people adopted and ratified the United States Constitution to protect the free speech and other rights of people, not corporations;

WHEREAS: Corporations are not people with constitutional rights, but instead are entities created by the law of states and nations, rightfully subservient to people and our governments;

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 self-government; and

WHEREAS: The people and states of the United States of America have strengthened the nation and preserved liberty and equality for all by using the amendment process throughout our history, including in seven of the ten decades of the 20th Century; and NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of Worcester City Council [sic] does hereby urge the U.S. Congress to protect the rights of Worcester voters, and individual voters across America by adopting House Resolution 88, proposed by U.S. Representative James McGovern, and begin efforts through the constitutional amendment process to reverse Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission and ensure that voters in Worcester and across America remain the sole decision makers in our election process.

<p>Alford Defeated 5/8/2012</p>	<p>(text from town meeting warrant, defeat reported by Alford initiative contact person)</p> <p>ARTICLE 17</p> <p>To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution or take any other action relative thereto:</p> <p>Be it resolved that the voters of Alford, Massachusetts call upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification, a constitutional amendment that Congress and the states will regulate the expenditure of funds for political speech by any corporation, Limited Liability Company or other business entity.</p>
<p>Beverly Defeated 6/18/2012</p>	<p>(text to come)</p>
<p>Egremont Defeated 5/1/2012</p>	<p>(text from town meeting warrant, defeat confirmed by Town Clerk)</p> <p>ARTICLE 18: Be it resolved that the voters of the Town of Egremont, Massachusetts call upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the States for ratification, a Constitutional Amendment that Congress and the States will regulate the expenditure of funds for political speech by any corporation, limited liability company or other corporate entity, or to take any other action relative thereto.</p>
<p>Littleton Defeated 5/7/2012</p>	<p>(text from town meeting warrant, defeat reported by Littleton initiative contact person)</p> <p>ARTICLE 26. Amend U.S. Constitution – Corporations Not Persons</p> <p>To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to contact the Massachusetts Congressional delegation directing them to propose a U.S. Constitutional amendment for the States’ consideration which provides that money is not speech, and that corporations are not persons under the U.S. Constitution, and to further authorize the Board of Selectmen to contact District Senator James B. Eldridge and state Representative James Arciero to request that they draft a similar resolution within thirty days of passage of this measure, or to take any other action in relation thereto.</p>
<p>Millis Defeated 11/5/2012</p>	<p>(text from town meeting DRAFT warrant, defeat confirmed by town official)</p> <p>Article 25</p> <p>We. the Town Meeting of Millis, Massachusetts, declare that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights were adopted to protect the free speech and other rights of people, not corporations. 2. People create corporations under the laws of the State, subject to regulation by the people through the legislative process; and 3. The Supreme Court decision, Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission allows unlimited election spending from undisclosed sources that is a threat to our democracy and to individual participation in the government process; and <p>therefore, we urge our municipal, state and federal elected officials to support a constitutional amendment to reverse Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission.</p>