



# CITY OF KEENE

R-2014-25

6B2

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and ..... Fourteen

A RESOLUTION ..... RELATING TO *CITIZENS UNITED V. FEDERAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION*

*Resolved by the City Council of the City of Keene, as follows:*

WHEREAS, a bedrock principle upon which the United States of America was founded is that all people are created equal; and

WHEREAS, this bedrock principle rests upon the assumption that our government is of the people, by the people, and for the people; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States of America was adopted in order that the people of the United States may form a more perfect union for purposes of the establishment of the government of the people, by the people, and for the people; and

WHEREAS, the City Council for the City of Keene recognizes and respects the authority of the United States Supreme Court to interpret the Constitution established by the people of the United States; and

WHEREAS, there are moments in the history of the United States when a decision of the United States Supreme Court is at odds with the principle that all people are created equal; and

WHEREAS, at such times the people have a responsibility to express their opinion with respect to such a decision; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court decision in the case of *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission* constitutes such a decision; and

WHEREAS, the Court's decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission* to provide First Amendment rights to corporate entities having perpetual existence and potentially unlimited economic resources creates a new class of non-natural citizens not otherwise contemplated under the founding principles of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the reasoning of the decision constitutes a threat to the functioning of the democratic principles upon which the United State of America was founded; and

WHEREAS, when confronted with such a threat the people can, and should, express their opinion to their elected representatives.

PASSED

NOW, THEREFORE, be it Resolved by the City Council of the City of Keene, New Hampshire, as the duly elected representatives of the people of the City of Keene, New Hampshire, as follows:

1. That the United States Supreme Court decision in the matter of *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission* fundamentally alters the relationship of the people of the United States to the corporate entities which are created by, and exist solely, under the authority of state law.

2. That the reasoning of the decision creates a new classification of non-natural citizens having the right to directly and unaccountably participate in the democratic process at all levels of government.

3. That the decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission* has the potential to fundamentally alter and impede the rights of natural persons to effectively participate in the democratic process.

4. That interpreting the First Amendment to the United States Constitution in a manner to ascribe to corporate entities the same rights of natural persons is fundamentally flawed.

5. That the representatives of the City of Keene to the General Court of the State of New Hampshire, and the Governor of the State of New Hampshire, be and are hereby requested to call upon the State's Congressional Delegation to petition the United States Congress for the purpose of proposing an amendment to the United States Constitution to overturn the decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*, and to establish the Constitutional boundaries that must exist as a matter of law between the natural citizens of the United States of America and the non-natural corporate entities created by them.

---

Kendall W. Lane, Mayor

In City Council August 7, 2014.  
Referred to the Finance, Organization and  
Personnel Committee.



Assistant City Clerk