**Resolution No. 31380**

**The City of Seattle – Legislative Department**

**A RESOLUTION supporting a United States Constitutional Amendment to Regulate Corporate Political Spending and Campaign Financing.**

**Resolution sponsored by:**

![Signature]

**Committee Action:**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
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**Full Council Action:**

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<td>May 14, 2012</td>
<td>Adopted</td>
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**Related Legislation File:**

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<th>To (committee):</th>
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<td>May 7, 2012</td>
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<th>Date of Final Action:</th>
<th>Date Presented to Mayor:</th>
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<th>Date Signed by Mayor:</th>
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This file is complete and ready for presentation to Full Council.
RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION supporting a United States Constitutional Amendment to Regulate Corporate Political Spending and Campaign Financing.

WHEREAS, Seattle has a history of proven commitment to clean elections, transparency in election financing and lobbying, and maintains a national model of election oversight through the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commissions; and

WHEREAS, in a 2010 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission, the Supreme Court overturned some provisions of the federal Campaign Reform Act enacted in 2002, and ruled that corporate entities have the same rights as persons to unrestricted spending on political speech; and

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

WHEREAS, the Court's decision in effect allows unlimited corporate spending to influence campaigns, elections, lawmaking and public policy decisions; and

WHEREAS, in the two years since the ruling, there has been tremendous growth in contributions and spending by super political action committees for media ads and related independent electioneering activities; and

WHEREAS, the Court's decision in the case of Citizens United v. F.E.C. severely restricts the ability of federal, state and local governments like Seattle to enact reasonable campaign finance reforms and regulations regarding corporate political activity; and;

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

WHEREAS, the people of the United States have previously used the constitutional amendment process to correct decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court that are widely deemed to be egregious or wrongly decided or significantly out-of-step with the prevailing values of the populace; NOW, THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THAT:

Section 1. The City of Seattle calls on the United States Congress to initiate steps to amend the United States Constitution with provisions that clearly state that:

(1) Corporations are not human beings, and only human beings are endowed with Constitutional rights.

(2) Contributions and expenditures for political purposes are not Constitutionally-protected speech, and that, therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

(3) Congress and the States shall have the power to regulate contributions and expenditures for campaigns and ballot measures, and to require public disclosure of the sources of such contributions and expenditures.

Adopted by the City Council the 14th day of May, 2012, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 14th day of May, 2012.

[Signature]
President of the City Council

Filed by me this 14th day of May, 2012.

[Signature]
For Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)
FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

Department: Legislative
Contact Person/Phone: Ben Noble / 4-81601
CBO Analyst/Phone: N/A

Legislation Title:
A RESOLUTION supporting a United States Constitutional Amendment to Regulate Corporate Political Spending and Campaign Financing

Summary of the Legislation:
This resolution requests that Washington State Legislature and the United States Congress to initiate steps to amend the United States Constitution with provisions that would give Congress and the States the power to regulate contributions and expenditures for campaigns and ballot measures, and to require public disclosure of the sources of such contributions and expenditures.

Background:
The U.S. Supreme Court’s recent ruling in the “Citizens United” case has significantly limited government’s ability to regulate campaign contributions and to require disclosure of how much specific individuals or organizations are contributing to political campaigns.

Please check one of the following:

X  This legislation does not have any financial implications.
(Please skip to “Other Implications” section at the end of the document and answer questions a-h. Earlier sections that are left blank should be deleted. Please delete the instructions provided in parentheses at the end of each question.)

Other Implications:

a) Does the legislation have indirect financial implications, or long-term implications?  
   No.

b) What is the financial cost of not implementing the legislation?  
   No direct costs.

c) Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?  
   No.

d) What are the possible alternatives to the legislation that could achieve the same or similar objectives?  
   A formal letter to the City’s Olympia delegation and the State’s Federal Delegation could
serve some of the same purpose.

e) Is a public hearing required for this legislation?
   No.

f) Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?
   No.

g) Does this legislation affect a piece of property?
   No.

h) Other Issues:
   None.
STATE OF WASHINGTON – KING COUNTY

284671
CITY OF SEATTLE, CLERKS OFFICE

Affidavit of Publication

The undersigned, on oath states that he is an authorized representative of The Daily Journal of Commerce, a daily newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continuously as a daily newspaper in Seattle, King County, Washington, and it is now and during all of said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of this newspaper. The Daily Journal of Commerce was on the 12th day of June, 1941, approved as a legal newspaper by the Superior Court of King County.

The notice in the exact form annexed, was published in regular issues of The Daily Journal of Commerce, which was regularly distributed to its subscribers during the below stated period. The annexed notice, a

CT: TITLE ONLY RESOLUTION

was published on

05/30/12

The amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is the sum of $41.85, which amount has been paid in full.

__________________________________________
MELISSA M. DOWD
STATE OF WASHINGTON
NOTARY PUBLIC
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES
11-21-15

Subscribed and sworn to before me on

05/30/12

Notary public for the State of Washington, residing in Seattle.
The full text of the following legislation, passed by the City Council on May 14, 2012, and published below by title only, will be mailed upon request, or can be accessed at http://www.seattle.gov. For information on upcoming meetings of the Seattle City Council, please visit http://www.seattle.gov/council/calendar.

Contact: Office of the City Clerk at (206) 684-8344.

RESOLUTION NO. 31365
A RESOLUTION endorsing the City Light Department’s Wholesale Energy Risk Management Policy, establishing it as the policy governing wholesale energy risk management at the City Light Department; and superseding Resolution 31280.

RESOLUTION NO. 31370
A RESOLUTION identifying principles and a revised schedule to guide the review and update of the City’s Comprehensive Plan.

RESOLUTION NO. 31380
A RESOLUTION supporting a United States Constitutional Amendment to Regulate Corporate Political Spending and Campaign Financing.


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