

RESOLUTION #2017-02

Town of Baileys Harbor

Supporting a Constitutional Amendment to Allow Limits on Campaign Contributions
And
Conducting a Non-Binding Statewide Referendum

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

Whereas, even the appearance of being able to buy access to candidates or influence policy and governing decisions based on large donations erodes the voters' confidence in our elections and democracy

Whereas, the U.S. Supreme Court's decisions in Citizens United and related cases allow unlimited spending by certain groups known as Super-PACs to influence local, state, and federal elections

Whereas, the above mentioned Supreme Court cases:

- 1) have granted Corporations, Unions, SuperPACs, and other man-made entities the same Constitutional protections given only to "We the People..." (i.e., individual human beings) by the Framers of the Constitution, and;
- 2) have declared money to be 'free speech'

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Baileys Harbor, Door County, Wisconsin, does hereby respectfully request the Door County Board of Supervisors to support this Resolution and ask the Wisconsin State Legislature, and our locally elected state representatives, to provide the voters of the state with the opportunity to speak through a non-binding state-wide Referendum asking if they, the voters, support an amendment to the United States Constitution stating:

1. Only human beings --not corporations, unions, SuperPACs or similar associations --are endowed with individual constitutional rights, and
2. Money is not speech, and therefore limiting political contributions and spending is not equivalent to restricting political speech.

Be it further resolved, that the Clerk for the Town of Baileys Harbor send a copy of this Resolution to the Door County Board and to our state and federal representatives with instructions to enact resolutions, referenda, and legislation to advance this effort.

Introduced by Dan Powers

Moved by Supervisor Roberta Thelen, seconded by Supervisor Peter Jacobs
That said resolution be adopted.

Passed by the Town Board of the Town of Baileys Harbor on the 12th day of JUNE, 2017.

Town of Baileys Harbor Chairperson Donald Litta