

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-22

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLITS CALLING FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ABOLISH CORPORATE PERSONHOOD

WHEREAS, the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in *McCutcheon vs. FEC* further removed limits on campaign finance enacted by the U.S. Congress; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court has wrongly ruled that corporations are entitled to the inalienable human rights recognized by the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court has wrongly ruled that political spending is the equivalent of free speech and cannot be regulated; and

WHEREAS, corporate-friendly Supreme Court decisions have cited these so-called "corporate personhood rights" to overturn municipal, state and federal laws enacted to curb corporate abuses, thereby rendering local governments ineffective in protecting their citizens against corporate harms to the environment, health, workers, independent business, and local and regional economies; and

WHEREAS, large corporations have also used these corporate personhood rights to spend billions of dollars to influence government through lobbying, campaign contributions, ownership of the mass media, and massive advertising and public relations efforts; and

WHEREAS, this massive corporate political impact has overwhelmed the voice of citizens, crippled municipalities' ability to benefit local residents, and undermined people's faith in democracy; and

WHEREAS, the political spending of super rich individuals is further distorting the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, municipalities and citizens across the nation are joining in a democracy movement to call for an Amendment to the US Constitution to abolish the illegitimate doctrines of corporate constitutional rights and money as speech; and

WHEREAS, in the November 2012 general election the voters of Mendocino County voted 74.71 % Yes on Measure F instructing our elected representatives to pass resolutions calling for an amendment to the United States Constitution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Willits, hereby calls on our legislators to call for an Amendment to the US Constitution to firmly establish that only human beings have the inalienable rights recognized in the U.S. Constitution, that money does not constitute speech, and that political contributions can be regulated to return our democracy, our elections, and our communities back to America's human persons and reclaim our sovereign right to self-governance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council will notify State Senator Evans, Assemblymember Chesbro, Congressman Huffman and Senators Boxer and Feinstein of this resolution and the vote of The People in favor of amending the U.S. Constitution.


The above and foregoing Resolution was introduced by Councilmember Strong seconded by Councilmember Orenstein, and passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Willits, held on the 14th day of May, 2014, by the following vote:

AYES: Stranske, Strong, Orenstein, and Madrigal
NOES: Burton
ABSENT: None



HOLLY MADRIGAL, Mayor
City Council of the City of Willits

ATTEST:



CATHY SANDERS
Deputy City Clerk