

CHAPTER 109
Democracy Day

- 109.01** Established; public hearings.
- 109.02** Letter to congress.
- 109.03** End of hearings.

109.01 ESTABLISHED; PUBLIC HEARINGS.

Beginning the year 2015, the Mayor and City Council shall designate one day in the month of February following the November federal elections, "Democracy Day." On this day, the Mayor and City Council shall sponsor a Public Hearing in a public space within the City. The City shall publicize the Public Hearing on its website and through area media at least one (1) month in advance of the Hearing. The Public Hearing will examine the impact of political contributions of corporations, unions, PACS and Super-PACS on the City. The Mayor and at least one (1) City Councilperson shall submit testimony at the public hearing. In addition, all citizens of Defiance will be permitted to submit oral testimony for a period of at least five (5) minutes per citizen. (Ord. 7598. Passed 3-11-14.)

109.02 LETTER TO CONGRESS.

Within one (1) week following the Public Hearing, the Mayor shall send a letter to leaders of the Ohio House and Senate, and Defiance's U.S. congressional representative, and both Ohio U.S. Senators stating that the citizens of Defiance in November 2013 voted in support of a Citizens' initiative calling for a constitutional amendment declaring:

- (a) Only human beings, not corporations, are legal persons with constitutional rights.
- (b) Money is not equivalent to speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

(Ord. 7598. Passed 3-11-14.)

109.03 END OF HEARINGS.

The bi-annual Public Hearing will cease if and when a constitutional amendment reflecting the principles set forth in Section [109.02](#) is ratified by 3/4 of State legislatures.
(Ord. 7598. Passed 3-11-14.)