

RESOLUTION - MOVE TO AMEND - CITIZENS UNITED

A Suggested Resolution Put to the Charlottesville, Virginia City Council, Regarding Corporate Influence in the Democratic Process, and Amending the US Constitution

WHEREAS, We the people adopted and ratified the United States Constitution to protect the free speech and other rights of people, not corporations; and

WHEREAS, Corporations are not people but instead are entities created by the law of states and nations; and

WHEREAS, for the past three decades, a divided United States Supreme Court has erroneously transformed the First Amendment into a powerful tool for corporations seeking to evade and invalidate the people's laws; and

WHEREAS, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, relying on prior decisions, interpreted the First Amendment of the Constitution to afford corporations the same free speech protections as natural persons; and

WHEREAS, *Citizens United* overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations from spending corporate general treasury funds in our elections; and

WHEREAS, *Citizens United* unleashed a torrent of corporate money in our political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in United States history; and

WHEREAS, *Citizens United* purports to invalidate state laws and even state Constitutional provisions separating corporate money from elections; and

WHEREAS, *Citizens United* presents a serious and direct threat to our republican democracy; and

WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution empowers and obligates the people and states of the United States of America to use the constitutional amendment process to correct those egregiously wrong decisions of the United States Supreme Court that go to the heart of our democracy and republican self-government; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of municipalities across the nation are joining together to call for an Amendment to the United States Constitution to establish that political speech and spending by corporate entities to influence the political process must be regulated and made subservient to the people's interest in authentic democracy and self-governance; and

WHEREAS, the people of the United States previously have used the constitutional amendment process to correct decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court that are deemed to be egregious and wrongly decided and which go to the heart of our democracy and self-government.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE CALL UPON THE VIRGINIA STATE LEGISLATURE AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REVERSE *CITIZEN UNITED V. FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION* AND TO RESTORE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND FAIR ELECTIONS TO THE PEOPLE. By the People of Charlottesville, Va.

[signed]

2012