

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA CONCERNING CORPORATE SPENDING TO INFLUENCE ELECTIONS.

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia is committed to clean elections and transparency in election financing; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court's 5-4 ruling in *Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission* rolled back legal restrictions that were intended to protect the democratic process by limiting corporate spending to influence elections, candidate selection, and policy decisions; and

WHEREAS, the *Citizens United* decision supersedes state and local efforts to regulate corporate activity in the electoral process; and

WHEREAS, the *Citizens United* decision interpreted the First Amendment of the Constitution to afford corporations the same free speech protections as natural persons; and

WHEREAS, the *Citizens United* decision in effect allows unlimited corporate spending to influence campaigns, elections, lawmaking and public policy decisions; and

WHEREAS, since the *Citizens United* decision there has been tremendous growth in contributions and spending by super political action committees; and

WHEREAS, the *Citizens United* decision severely restricts the ability of federal, state and local governments like Olympia to enact reasonable campaign finance reforms and regulations regarding corporate political activity; and

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

WHEREAS, people of the United State have previously used the constitutional amendment process to address the impact of decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court that are inconsistent with the prevailing values of the populace; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Olympia has decided to adopt a Resolution to encourage the State Legislature and the United States Congress to take necessary measures, including a constitutional amendment, to address the impacts of *Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission* on the amounts corporations are allowed to spend to influence elections; and

NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, that:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Olympia hereby supports actions the State Legislature and the United States Congress can take, including a constitutional amendment that will clearly provide that:

- (1) Corporations are not human beings and thus may be subject to limitations on their ability to influence elections.
- (2) Contributions and expenditures for political purposes are not Constitutionally-protected speech, and, 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.

APPROVED AND PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL this ____ day of _____ 2012.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



CITY ATTORNEY