

**NOTICE OF REFERENDUM  
CITY OF LA CROSSE  
APRIL 3, 2018**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at an election to be held in the City of La Crosse, on April 3, 2018, the following proposed Resolution will be submitted to a vote of the people:

**RESOLUTION**

**Whereas**, government of, by, and for the people has long been a cherished American value, and; **Whereas**, free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective self-governance, and; **Whereas**, corporations are not and never have been human beings or persons, and therefore are rightfully subservient to human beings and governments as our legal creations; and rightly are provided ONLY privileges by the states, and; **Whereas**, interpretation of the U. S. Constitution by appointed Supreme Court Justices to include corporations in the term “persons” has long denied We the People’s exercise of self-governance by endowing corporations with Constitutional protections intended by the Framers for ONLY We the People, and; **Whereas**, in 1976 the ruling on *Buckley v. Valeo*, the untenable decision of the Supreme Court changed the course of American elections and established the doctrine that spending money to influence elections is a form of speech; and; **Whereas**, on January 10, 2010, in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*, the Supreme Court overturned a century of precedence by ruling that corporate spending on elections cannot be limited under the First Amendment; now therefore. **Resolved**, that “We the People” of the City of La Crosse, Wisconsin, seek to reclaim democracy from the expansion of corporate personhood rights and the corrupting influence of unregulated political contributions and spending. We stand with communities across the country to support passage of an amendment to the United States Constitution stating:

1. **Only human beings are endowed with constitutional rights – not corporations, unions, nonprofits or other artificial entities, and**
2. **Money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.**

**Further Resolved** that the City of La Crosse, Wisconsin Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to our state and federal representatives – instructing them to enact resolutions and legislation to advance this effort.

The question will appear on the ballot as follows:

Shall the City of La Crosse adopt a resolution in order to limit spending to influence elections so as to allow all Americans to have an equal say in our democracy that supports a U. S. Constitutional amendment stating: (1) Only human beings are endowed with constitutional rights, not corporations, unions, nonprofits or other artificial entities; and (2) Money is not speech and, therefore, regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting speech?

**EXPLANATION**

This referendum asks whether the City of La Crosse should support an amendment to the United States Constitution limiting the rights of corporations and allowing government regulation of political contributions and spending.

Voting “Yes” on this referendum means you support such a Constitutional amendment.  
Voting “No” means you do not support such an amendment.

Done in the City of La Crosse on January 24, 2018.  
Teri Lehrke, City Clerk