

Town Board Request

Door County- United to Amend

We're here to ask for your help, support, and local leadership on something that probably 80% of your town voters support. **15 other DC municipalities to date** have already done so because they saw how this issue has increasingly had negative effects on your local control, your budgets, and our elections.

Issue: The amount of 'legalized and Constitutionally protected' unlimited money raised and spent by SuperPACs (supporting both parties) in our elections is overwhelming the voices of individual voters, and the candidates themselves. The goal of these mega-donors is to buy access, influence and policies- and it is working. **Local governments are losing local control and voters are angry and frustrated.**

Request: We're RESPECTFULLY asking to be placed on next month's agenda to present information about a **NON-PARTISAN** Resolution of Support. (See attached). The Resolution simply asks the County, and our state representatives, to support a statewide advisory Referendum giving Wisconsin voters the chance to say 'Yes' or 'No' to one question: 'Should Wisconsin become **the 20th state** to call on Congress for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would again **allow** common-sense restrictions on outside political campaign spending?'

78.9% of DC Municipalities (15/19) have already passed our Resolution. This does NOT include the County itself.

- City of Sturgeon Bay (3-21-17)
- Towns of Baileys Harbor (6-12-17), Egg Harbor (6-19-17), Liberty Grove (7-5-17), Forestville (7-18-17), Gibraltar (8-2-17) Sturgeon Bay (9-4-17), Jacksonport (9-26-17), Brussels (11-8-17), Clay Banks (12-14-17), Nasewaupee (12-15-17), Union (2-14-18)
- Villages of Egg Harbor (7-10-17), Ephraim (7-11-17), Forestville (11-21-17)
- **PENDING:** GARDNER Resolution is on their April 17, 2018 Agenda
COUNTY BOARD: April agenda?

58 Yes, 1 No, (4 absent)... These are the vote totals to date from the communities that have already voted to support the Resolution.

80.5% of DC residents are represented by these 15 municipalities

At the County Board Level... The Door County Legislative Committee has sent a Resolution of support to the full Board for their February 27, 2018 meeting. They are considering a follow-up request for a possible County referendum on the November 6, 2018 election ballot.

120 Wisconsin Communities (to date) from red and blue areas across the state have passed Resolutions or Referendums calling on the state for a Statewide Referendum.

78% is the average by which over 70 local referendums across the state have passed so far.

Respectfully submitted,

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Why Should Local & County Officials Get Involved?

1. The majority of people you represent care.

They are angry and worried about the rising surge of outside money that floods our elections - often just to distort and spread misinformation about candidates and positions. The unlimited money funneled through Super-PACs now has the ability to outspend candidates and even political parties. They are funded by a few wealthy individuals, corporations and unions; **and** they threaten to drown out the voice of individual voters. They are a big part of the reason political 'compromise and problem solving' has declined and been replaced by ultra-partisanship and distrust. This is even seen in the WI Supreme Court.

120 Wisconsin municipalities (including 15 in Door County) have voted support of an amendment. The margin of support in the **72** communities that have held Referendums averages 78%. That's a clear sign that **voters see this as Non-Partisan.**

2. It is the right thing to do.

Even the appearance of buying influence and power hurts our democracy...and many feel it too often goes beyond appearance.

3. Local Control is being eroded.

This is your chance to officially to Speak-up. You're our elected officials, but you keep having more and more local control taken out of your hands and your budgets siphoned off to large lobbying interests.

4. Your vote amplifies the voices of each of your neighbors (the people you represent).

We elected you to represent us, not just manage. We need you to get involved when the balance between state and local government is being challenged by outside money.

5. Your vote of support will help to push the ball of common-sense campaign finance reform up a very steep political hill.

We recognize that getting a non-binding statewide Referendum on a future State ballot **and** getting a National Amendment passed will require sustained political action and will. We all know that. But, today your vote of support will be a critical local step in moving that ball up that hill. It lets our elected state and congressional representatives know we want them to show courage and leadership both within and across their current political divides. This Resolution simply asks them to acknowledge and step up to this important issue and then let Wisconsin voters make their voices heard through a state-wide Referendum in the near future.

BIG PICTURE Summary: as of February, 2018

The crux of the **PROBLEM** is this.

- The amount of unlimited outside money raised and spent by SuperPACs and billionaires is drowning out the voices of individual voters and the people are disgusted and ticked off. They are calling the Wisconsin legislature to allow them to have a voice in addressing the problem
- Large sums of money, at the very least, buys access and influence, which erodes Local Control
- Outside Super-PAC money is unlimited because the Supreme Court (SCOTUS) in a 5-4 decision said so in the *Citizens United* case (2010)
- Democracy is being harmed by the flood of outside money pouring into our elections since the *Citizens United* ruling stripped Congress (and states) from legislating ANY limits on these outside groups
- Since it's very unlikely that SCOTUS would reverse themselves, an Amendment is the only way to permanently undo the 2 underlying 'legal fictions' in *Citizens United*:
 - That Money is free speech
 - That Corporations (Unions, SuperPACs) are people entitled to the same Constitutional rights as individuals

SOLUTION: What's happening at the state and local level

- AJR 53 is a State Joint Assembly Bill stuck in committee. (The Senate version is called SJR 54.) They call for statewide non-binding Referendum so that the voters of Wisconsin can say 'Yes or No' if they support allowing limits on these mega political donations.
- Rep. Joel Kitchens has said that he'd vote for it, IF it ever got to the floor.
- We're here to ask you to join the other **15 Door County municipalities** to date (and the **120 statewide**) who don't want this to die in committee in Madison without so much as a public debate. (like it did last biennium)
- **The Resolution before you** is a way for you to express support. It asks the County Board to support it, and it asks our state Reps to support the statewide Referendum in the legislature. (as 19 states have already done)

ASK:

- So we're asking you to consider and pass the Resolution and help build local support at the municipal, county and state level to get the statewide Referendum a public hearing. In doing so, you'll help all voters (including those you represent) to have a say about the incredible amount of money awash in our elections.



WI Communities that have Called for an Amendment

1. City of Madison – petition referendum on ballot April 5, 2011, with 84% approval.
2. Dane County – board placed referendum on ballot April 5, 2011, with 78% approval.
3. City of West Allis – petition referendum on ballot April 3, 2012, with 70% approval.
4. Town of Westport – board passed resolution May 7, 2012.
5. Dunn County – board passed resolution July 25, 2012. Then put on ballot and passed 72% on Nov 4, 2014.
6. Eau Claire County – board placed referendum on ballot Nov. 6, 2012, with 71% approval.
7. Chippewa County – board placed referendum on ballot April 2, 2013, with 68% approval.
8. City of Fort Atkinson – petition forced referendum on ballot April 2, 2013, with 77% approval.
9. City of Whitewater – petition referendum on ballot April 2, 2013, with 84% approval.
10. Douglas County – board of supervisors unanimously approved resolution June 20, 2013.
11. Town of Exeter – town board unanimously approved resolution July 8, 2013.
12. Jefferson County – board of supervisors voted 23-5 to approve resolution July 9, 2013.
13. Town of Koshkonong – town board approved resolution with a July 10, 2013 80% ballot approval.
14. Town of Oakland – town board unanimously approved resolution July 16, 2013.
15. City of Kenosha – city council voted 13-2 to approve resolution August 5, 2013.
16. Town of Sumner – town board unanimously approved resolution August 12, 2013.
17. Town of Watertown – town board unanimously approved resolution August 12, 2013.
18. Kenosha County – board voted 19-4 to approve resolution August 20, 2013.
19. Town of Jefferson – town board voted 4-1 to approve resolution September 5, 2013.
20. Town of Farmington – town board unanimously approved resolution September 5, 2013.
21. Town of Spring Valley – town board unanimously approved resolution September 9, 2013.
22. Town of Lake Mills – town board unanimously approved resolution September 10, 2013.
23. Town of Richmond – town board unanimously approved resolution September 17, 2013.
24. Town of Cross Plains – town board unanimously approved resolution November 11, 2013.
25. Town of Avon – town board unanimously approved resolution December 2, 2013.
26. Town of Porter – town board voted 2 for and 1 abstaining to approve resolution December 16, 2013.
27. Town of Plymouth – town board unanimously approved resolution January 14, 2014.
28. Town of Newark – town board unanimously approved resolution February 10, 2014.
29. City of Waukesha – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 69% approval.
30. City of Wauwatosa – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 64% approval.
31. City of Edgerton – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 87% approval.
32. City of Elkhorn – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 69% approval.
33. City of Delavan – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 76% approval.
34. City of Lake Mills – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 73% approval.
35. Village of Belleville – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 85% approval.
36. Village of Shorewood – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 76% approval.
37. Village of Whitefish Bay – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 65% approval.
38. Village of Waunakee – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 79% approval.
39. Village of DeForest – petition referendum on ballot April 1, 2014, with 70% approval.
40. Town of Windsor – town board approved resolution with an April 1, 2014 71% ballot approval.
41. Town of Waterloo – board placed referendum on ballot April 1, 2014 61% ballot approval.
42. Town of Viroqua – town board approved resolution per citizen unanimous vote April 20, 2014.
43. Town of Janesville – town board unanimously approved resolution July 7, 2014.
44. Town of Dunn – town board unanimously approved resolution Aug 28, 2014.
45. Milwaukee County – board placed referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with a 70% approval.
46. City of Green Bay – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with a 77% approval.

47. City of Appleton – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with a 74% approval.
48. City of Fond du Lac – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with a 73% approval.
49. City of Neenah – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with a 79% approval.
50. City of Menasha – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with an 80% approval.
51. City of Ripon – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with a 79% approval.
52. City of Wausau – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with a 77% approval.
53. City of Stoughton – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with an 82% approval.
54. Village of Oregon – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with a 79% approval.
55. Village of Park Ridge – petition referendum on ballot November 4, 2014 with an 83% approval.
56. City of Watertown – petition referendum on ballot April 7, 2015 with a 69% approval.
57. City of Evansville – petition referendum on ballot April 7, 2015 with an 80% approval.
58. Town of Reedsburg – board placed referendum on ballot April 7, 2015 with a 63% ballot approval.
59. Town of Ellington – town board approved resolution April 21, 2015.
60. City of Mauston – city council unanimously approved a resolution June 23, 2015.
61. City of New Lisbon - city council unanimously approved a resolution July 20, 2015.
62. Town of Greenville – town board voted 3-2 to approve resolution October 12, 2015.
63. Village of Belmont – petition referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 88% approval.
64. City of Beloit – petition referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with a 74% approval.
65. City of Brodhead – board placed referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 85% approval.
66. Town of Clarno – board placed referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 85% ballot approval.
67. City of Darlington – petition referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 81% approval.
68. City of Janesville – board placed referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 84% approval.
69. City of Lancaster – petition referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 85% approval.
70. City of New London – petition referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 81% approval.
71. City of Monroe – board placed referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 82% approval.
72. City of Platteville – petition referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 84% approval.
73. Town of York – board placed referendum on ballot April 5, 2016 with an 86% ballot approval.
74. Town of Fountain – town board approved resolution per citizen vote (8-1-1) April 20, 2016.
75. Town of Mt. Pleasant – unanimous board approval May 16, 2016. Referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 88% approval.
76. City of Milton – city council unanimously approved resolution August 16, 2016.
77. Town of Marion – town board unanimously approved resolution September 8, 2016.
78. Rock County – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 86% approval.
79. City of Reedsburg – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 86% approval.
80. City of Manitowoc – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 81% approval.
81. City of Delafield – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 79% approval.
82. Village of Neshkoro – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 88% approval.
83. Village of New Glarus – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 88% approval.
84. Village of Spring Valley – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 91% approval.
85. Village of Osceola – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 86% approval.
86. Village of Mount Horeb – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 84% approval.
87. Village of Monticello – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 86% approval.
88. Village of Clayton – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 86% approval.
89. Town of New Glarus – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 83% approval.
90. Town of Harris – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 65% approval.
91. Town of Springdale – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 86% approval.
92. Town of Decatur – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 89% approval.
93. Town of Cadiz – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 87% approval.
94. Town of Lake Tomahawk – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 91% approval.
95. Town of West Point – ballot referendum passed November 8, 2016 with a 67% approval.
96. Town of Clayton – town board unanimously approved resolution January 18, 2017.
97. City of Sturgeon Bay – council unanimously approved resolution March 21, 2017.
98. City of Racine - ballot referendum passed April 4, 2017 with a 81% approval.
99. City of Monona - ballot referendum passed April 4, 2017 with a 91% approval.
100. Village of Fox Crossing - ballot referendum passed April 4, 2017 with a 81% approval.
101. Village of Blue Mounds - ballot referendum passed April 4, 2017 with a 88% approval.

102. Town of Blue Mounds - ballot referendum passed April 4, 2017 with a 84% approval.
103. Town of Jordan - ballot referendum passed April 4, 2017 with a 71% approval.
104. Town of Crystal Lake - ballot referendum passed April 4, 2017 with a 79% approval.
105. Town of Caledonia - ballot referendum passed April 4, 2017 with a 70% approval.
106. Town of Bailey's Harbor – board unanimously approved resolution June 12, 2017.
107. Town of Egg Harbor – board unanimously approved resolution June 19, 2017.
108. Town of Liberty Grove – board unanimously approved resolution July 5, 2017.
109. Village of Egg Harbor – board unanimously approved resolution July 10, 2017.
110. Village of Ephraim – board unanimously approved resolution July 11, 2017.
111. City of Merrill – board voted 7-1 to approve resolution July 11, 2017.
112. Town of Forestville – board unanimously approved resolution July 18, 2017.
113. Town of Gibraltar – board voted 4-1 to approve resolution August 2, 2017.
114. Town of Sturgeon Bay – board unanimously approved resolution September 4, 2017.
115. Town of Jacksonport – board unanimously approved resolution September 26, 2017.
116. Town of Brussels – board unanimously approved resolution November 8, 2017.
117. Village of Forestville – board unanimously approved resolution November 21, 2017.
118. Town of Clay Banks – board unanimously approved resolution December 14, 2017.
119. Town of Nasewaupée – board unanimously approved resolution December 15, 2017.
120. Town of Union – board unanimously approved resolution February 14, 2018.

Average "Yes" votes of all communities where citizens voted on a ballot = 78%

In total, 2.8 million people (49% of Wisconsinites) live in jurisdictions that have called for the United To Amend Amendment. Nationwide, over 750 communities have passed resolutions.

Communities with April 2018 Referenda

Cities: La Crosse, Marshfield, Sun Prairie, Rice Lake

Villages: McFarland, Wittenberg

Towns: Sand Creek

Counties: Green, St. Croix

States that have Called for an Amendment

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Hawaii (April 28, 2010) | 11. Colorado (November 6, 2012) |
| 2. Maryland (January 19, 2012) | 12. West Virginia (April 10, 2013) |
| 3. New Mexico (February 7, 2012) | 13. Maine (April 30, 2013) |
| 4. Vermont (April 19, 2012) | 14. Illinois (May 31, 2013) |
| 5. Rhode Island (May 30, 2012) | 15. Delaware (June 10, 2013) |
| 6. California (July 5, 2012) | 16. Oregon (July 1, 2013) |
| 7. Massachusetts (July 31, 2012) | 17. New York (June 15, 2016) |
| 8. Connecticut (September 12, 2012) | 18. Washington (November 8, 2016) |
| 9. New Jersey (Oct. 18, 2012) | 19. Nevada (May 25, 2017) |
| 10. Montana (November 6, 2012) | |

RESOLUTION ~~No~~ 378 - 052418
 A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
 TO ALLOW LIMITS ON CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND
 CONDUCT A NON-BINDING STATEWIDE REFERENDUM

WHEREAS, free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective self-governance; and,

WHEREAS, even the appearance of being able to buy access to candidates or influence policy and governing decisions based on large donations erodes the voters' confidence in our elections and democracy; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court's decisions in "Citizens United" and related cases allow unlimited spending by certain groups known as Super-PACs to influence local, state, and federal elections; and,

WHEREAS, the above-mentioned Supreme Court cases:

1. Have granted corporations, unions, SuperPACs and other man-made entities the same Constitutional protections given only to "We the People. . ." (i.e., individual human beings), by the framers of the Constitution, and,
2. Have declared money to be "free speech".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Sister Bay does hereby respectfully request that the Door County Board of Supervisors support this Resolution and ask the Wisconsin State Legislature and our locally elected State Representatives to provide the voters of the state with the opportunity to speak through a non-binding state-wide Referendum, asking if they, the voters, support an amendment to the United States Constitution which states that:

1. Only human beings – not corporations, unions, SuperPACs or other artificial entities are endowed with individual Constitutional rights, and,
2. Money is not speech, and, therefore, limiting political contributions and spending is not equivalent to restricting political speech.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Deputy Clerk for the Village of Sister Bay send a copy of this Resolution to the Door County Board of Supervisors and to our State and Federal representatives with requests that they enact Resolutions, Referenda, and legislation to advance this effort.

INTRODUCED at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Sister Bay held this 9th day of January 2018.

Passed and adopted this 24th day of May, 2018.

David W. Lienau, President

ATTEST:

Janal Suppanz, Deputy Clerk

VOTE: Ayes _____ Noes _____