

RESOLUTION 240
CALLING UPON THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROPOSE AND SEND TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO RESTORE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND FAIR ELECTIONS TO THE PEOPLE

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

WHEREAS, campaign finance laws, including limits on campaign contributions, are key tools to combating political corruption; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court’s ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, 130 S.Ct 876(2010), and in related cases overturned campaign finance laws and other democratically enacted law by finding that spending money to influence elections is protected speech under the First Amendment to the Constitution, and that corporations have many of the same rights with respect to freedom of speech under the Constitution as do individuals; and

WHEREAS, Justice John Paul Stevens, writing on behalf of the four dissenting Justices in Citizens United, noted, “corporations help structure and facilitate the activities of human beings, to be sure, and their ‘personhood’ often serves as a useful legal fiction. But, they are not themselves members of ‘We the People’ by whom and for whom our Constitution was established;” and

WHEREAS, restricting the ability of Congress and the States to impose legal limits on political contributions and spending allows corporations and wealthy individuals to unduly influence elections, candidate selection, and policy decisions, and drowns the voice of ordinary citizens; and

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to call upon the United States Congress to propose and send to the States for ratification a Constitutional Amendment to restore Constitutional Rights and Fair Elections to The People. We further direct the Clerk of the Board to prepare copies of this Resolution to be prepared and transmitted without delay to Senators and House Members representing Missouri in Washington, D.C.

Introduced this 2nd day of March, 2018, by:

The Honorable Beth Murphy, Alderwoman 13th Ward

Adopted this 2nd day of March, 2018, as attested by:

Louis C. Galli
Interim Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen