



RESOLUTION NO. 1380

**CITY OF NORTH OAKS
RAMSEY, MINNESOTA**

**SUPPORTING A UNITED STATES CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REGULATE
CORPORATE POLITICAL SPENDING AND CAMPAIGN FINANCING**

Whereas, in 2010 the United States Supreme Court ruled in *Citizens United v Federal Election Commission* that corporate entities have the same free speech rights as natural persons; and

Whereas, the Supreme Court 's decision in *Citizens United* defined independent expenditures as a form of free speech and ruled that corporate entities have the same rights as natural persons to unrestricted spending on political speech; and

Whereas, corporations are not people but artificial entities bound by the laws of this country, this state, and this city; and

Whereas, the Court's decision has the effect of permitting unlimited corporate spending to influence elections, campaigns, and public policy decisions; and

Whereas, the Supreme Court's decision, which overturned some provisions of the federal Campaign Reform Act enacted in 2002, greatly encumbers the ability of federal, state, and local governments like North Oaks to enact and enforce reasonable campaign finance regulations regarding corporate political activity; and

Whereas, since the Supreme Court's decision, there has been a significant growth in contributions and spending by Super PAC's for media messaging and independent electioneering activities; and

Whereas, government should require that permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed; and

Whereas, several proposed amendments to the constitution have been introduced in Congress that would allow federal, state and local governments to regulate the raising and expending of money by corporations to influence elections and public policy decisions; and

Whereas, the people of the United States have on several occasions used the constitution amendment process to correct decisions of the United States Supreme Court that are widely deemed to be egregious or wrongly decided or significantly out-of-step with the prevailing values of the populace;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the City Council of The City of North Oaks: That the United States Congress begin the process of amending the United States Constitution with provisions that clearly state that:

- 1) Corporations are not natural persons, and only natural persons are endowed Constitutional rights.
- 2) Congress and the States shall have the power to regulate contributions and expenditures for elections and campaigns and to require public disclosure of the sources of the contributions and expenditures.



CITY OF
NorthOaks
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Be It Further Resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to members of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of North Oaks this 9th day of May, 2020

Ayes:

Nays:

Attest:

Attest:

Gregg Nelson, Mayor

Kevin Kress, City Administrator