

CITY OF BLUE GRASS, IOWA

RESOLUTION 2014-19

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH AS A POSITION OF THE BLUE GRASS CITY COUNCIL THAT CORPORATIONS SHOULD NOT RECEIVE THE SAME CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AS NATURAL PERSONS DO, AND THAT BECAUSE MONEY IS NOT THE EQUIVALENT OF FREE SPEECH, TRANSPARANCY REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITS ON POLITICAL SPENDING WILL PROMOTE THE GOALS OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT BY ENSURING THAT ALL CITIZENS, REGARDLESS OF WEALTH, HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE THEIR POLITICAL VIEWS HEARD.

WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free speech rights of individual human beings (“natural persons”), not corporations; and

WHEREAS, corporations are nowhere mentioned in the Constitution, nor have we decreed that corporations have authority that exceeds the authority of “WE THE PEOPLE” to self-determination in our politics; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court’s 2010 ruling in *Citizens United v. FEC* overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations from spending their general treasury funds in our elections, and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court’s 2014 ruling in *McCutcheon v FEC*, eliminated the two-year aggregate limit on individual campaign contributions, one of the pillars of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, which was intended to prevent corrosive influence of money in politics; and

WHEREAS, we are now seeing the infiltration of corporate money in Iowa local politics as occurred in a Coralville City Council race in 2013 where the interference of outside political groups was not sought by any of the local candidates; and

WHEREAS, states have wide latitude to require disclosures not only from classic political committees, but also any entity funding independent expenditures or electioneering communications in future state elections, and

WHEREAS, legislators at all levels of government have a duty to protect democracy and guard against the potentially detrimental effects of corporate or unaccounted for money in local, state, and federal elections;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IN RESOLVED that money is not speech, and therefore regulating election-related spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Blue Grass City Council calls upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a Constitutional Amendment to reverse the decisions in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* and *McCutcheon v Federal Election Commission*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Blue Grass City Council also calls upon the Iowa State Legislature to pass transparency laws that disclose who are the outside groups funding campaign ads in Iowa; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED City of Blue Grass hereby includes in its Federal Legislative Agenda support for an Amendment to the United States Constitution related to campaign finance reform and ending the false doctrine of corporate constitutional rights and, by sending a copy of this resolution to each federal legislator representing the City of Blue Grass, respectfully urges Iowa’s Congressional delegation to prioritize congressional proposal of an amendment to the United States Constitution addressing the threats to representative government identified in this resolution so that the states may ratify it.

Passed by the City Council of the City of Blue Grass, Iowa, this 19th day of May, 2014.

Approved and signed by the Mayor of the City of Blue Grass, Iowa, this 19th day of May, 2014.

Mayor Brinson L. Kinzer

Attest: Ann M. Schmidt, CMC, City Clerk/Financial Officer