

4-20-15  
RE # 17  
ADOPTED

**PRESENTED BY  
CANTON CITY COUNCIL**

*An Informal Resolution Respectfully Submitted By  
John Mariol, Ward 7 Council Member  
on this 20th day of April, 2015*

A resolution calling on legislators at the state and federal level and other communities and jurisdictions to support an amendment to the United States Constitution that would abolish corporate personhood and abolish the doctrine of money as speech.

*WHEREAS,* Government of, by, and for the people has long been a cherished American value, and We The People's inalienable right to self-govern is guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence; and

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

*WHEREAS,* Persons are rightfully recognized as human beings whose essential needs include clean air, clean water, and safe and secure food; and

*WHEREAS,* Corporations can exist in perpetuity, can exist simultaneously in many nations at once, need only profit for survival, and exist solely through the legal charter imposed by the government of We The People; and

*WHEREAS,* Corporations are not mentioned in the Constitution, and We The People have never granted constitutional rights to corporations, nor have we decreed that corporations

have authority that exceeds the authority of We The People of the United States; and

*WHEREAS,* Corporations are not and have never been human beings, and therefore are rightfully subservient to human beings and governments as our legal creations; and

*WHEREAS,* The recent *Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission* Supreme Court decision that rolled back the legal limits on spending in the electoral process creates an unequal playing field and allows unlimited spending by wealthy individuals, corporations and other entities to influence elections, candidate selection, policy decisions and sway votes, and compels elected officials to divert their attention from The People's business, or even vote against the interest of their human constituents, in order to ensure competitive campaign funds for their own re-election; and

*WHEREAS,* The judicial interpretation to construe spending money in political campaigns as speech is contrary of the notion of one person, one vote, and allows those with the most money to have an unfair advantage in a political system that should be about ensuring that all citizens have equal access to the political process and to influencing the outcome of elections; and

*WHEREAS,* Tens of thousands of people and municipalities across the nation are joining with the Move to Amend campaign to call for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to abolish corporate personhood and the doctrine of money as speech; and

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF CANTON, OHIO:*

Section 1. The City of Canton hereby calls on our legislators at the state and federal levels to join the tens of thousands of citizens, grassroots organizations and local governments across the country in the Move to Amend campaign to call for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to (a) abolish corporate personhood and (b) abolish the doctrine of money as speech and thereby return our democracy, our elections, and our communities to America's human persons and thus claim our sovereign right to self-governance.

Section 2. The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Ohio's U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives for the 16th, 7th, and the 13th District, and all members of the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives by their clerk.

Section 3. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all such deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements.