

RESOLUTION NO. 5862

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF SEBASTOPOL URGING  
CONGRESS TO PROPOSE A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT REGARDING  
CORPORATE PERSONHOOD TO LIMIT POLITICAL SPENDING BY  
CORPORATIONS

Whereas the greatest threat to authentic democratic self-governance comes from the fact that corporations have been defined as legal persons; and

Whereas persons are rightfully recognized as human beings whose essential needs include clean air, clean water, and safe and secure food; and

Whereas the granting of constitutional protections to corporations has compromised our communities, economy, democracy and natural world in many ways; and

Whereas corporations are human-made legal fictions, while human citizens are the source of all legitimate power in any democracy; and

Whereas corporations need only profit for survival, and that such profit and survival are often in direct conflict with the essential needs and rights of human beings; and

Whereas, the great wealth of large corporations allows them to wield coercive force of law to overpower human beings and communities, thus denying citizens' exercise of our Constitutional rights; and

Whereas, the great wealth of large corporations enables them to amass great power disproportionate to that of human beings; and

Whereas corporations are not mentioned in the Constitution, and the people never granted constitutional rights to corporations, while individual judges and courts have misguidedly done so; and

Whereas the rollback of the legal limits to corporate spending in elections creates an unequal playing field enabling corporations to unduly influence elections, candidate selection, and policy decisions; and

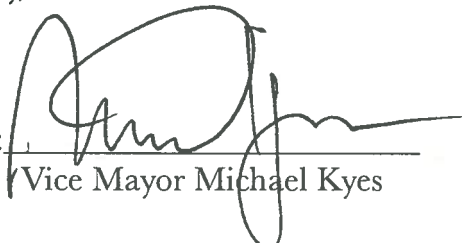
Whereas large corporations own most of America's mass media and use that media as a megaphone for their own agendas, drowning out human voices; and

Whereas defining property as people is fundamentally wrong and a threat to the constitutional rights of human beings; and

Whereas Senator Noreen Evans, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has introduced SB 982, a bill to require corporate political speech be public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Sebastopol joins the millions of citizens, grassroots organizations and local governments across America in calling for an Amendment to the Constitution to firmly establish that money is not speech, that human beings are not corporations, that only the people are entitled to constitutional rights, and that the rights of human beings will never again be granted to fictitious entities or property.

DULY PASSED this 21st day of February, 2012.

APPROVED:   
Vice Mayor Michael Kyes

CITY OF SEBASTOPOL            )  
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA        )

I, Mary Gourley, City Clerk of the City of Sebastopol, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Sebastopol at a regular meeting thereof held on February 21, 2012, by the following vote:

- AYES:            Councilmembers Slayter, Shaffer, Gurney, Vice Mayor Kyes and Mayor Wilson
- NOES:           None
- ABSENT:        None
- ABSTAIN:       None

ATTEST:   
Mary Gourley, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:   
Larry McLaughlin, City Attorney