

CITY OF BURIEN, WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. 371

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BURIEN, WASHINGTON, STATING THAT CORPORATIONS ARE NOT PERSONS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION FOR PURPOSES OF THE REGULATION OF ELECTIONS, THAT REGULATING POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND SPENDING IS NOT EQUIVALENT TO LIMITING POLITICAL SPEECH, AND SUPPORTING LIMITS ON CORPORATIONS' ABILITY TO SPEND MONEY DURING LOCAL AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

WHEREAS, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, 558 U.S. 310 (2010), was a landmark United States Supreme Court case in which the Court held that the First Amendment prohibited the government from restricting independent political expenditures by corporations and unions; and

WHEREAS, the Burien City Council finds that such decision could adversely affect fair election campaigning for federal, state, and local elections, including those for Burien City Council and other ballot issues affecting Burien; and

WHEREAS, the Burien City Council has become concerned that allowing corporations the same political speech protections as those afforded to individuals encourages unlimited corporate spending to influence campaigns and elections;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BURIEN, WASHINGTON, DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Only human beings, not corporations, are persons under the United States Constitution for the purposes of the regulation of elections.

Section 2. Money is not speech, and the donation of money to a political campaign is not a form of constitutionally protected speech; therefore, regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

Section 3. The U.S. Congress and Washington State Legislature are urged to take action to correct the current unbridled ability of corporations to spend money during local and national elections.

Section 4. Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage by the Burien City Council.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BURIEN, WASHINGTON, AT A
REGULAR MEETING THEREOF THIS 2ND DAY OF MAY, 2016.

CITY OF BURIEN

/s/ Lucy Krakowiak, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

/s/ Monica Lusk, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

/s/ Soojin Kim, City Attorney

Filed with the City Clerk: May 2, 2016

Passed by the City Council: May 2, 2016

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