

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN ADVISORY REFERENDUM ON APRIL 5, 2016  
REGARDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

*Whereas, Government of, by, and for the people has long been a cherished American value; and*

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

*Whereas, On January 10, 2010, in Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission, the Supreme Court overturned a century of precedence by ruling that corporate spending on elections cannot be limited under the First Amendment; now therefore, be it*

*Resolved, That an advisory referendum shall be conducted in the 2016 Spring Election in the City of Monroe, Wisconsin eliciting voter responses to the following question:*

*Should the United States Constitution be amended to state the following:*

*1. The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only. Artificial entities established by the laws of any state, The United States, or any foreign state, shall have no rights under this Constitution. The privileges of artificial entities shall be determined by the people through federal, state, or local law, and shall not be construed to be inherent or inalienable.*

*and*

*2. Federal, state, and local government shall regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures related to elections, including a candidate's own contributions and expenditures, to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their economic status, have access to the political process, and that no person gains, as a result of their money, substantially more access or ability to influence in any way the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure. Federal, state, and local government shall require that any permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed. The judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to influence elections to be speech under the First Amendment.*

Explanatory Statement of Question

A "YES" vote supports limiting spending by corporations,


unions, and political action committees related to elections. A "YES" vote supports the position that artificial entities, such as corporations, do not have constitutional rights and that money is not free speech.

A "NO" vote supports unlimited spending by corporations, unions, and political action committees related to elections. A "NO" vote supports the position that corporate, union, and political action committee spending on elections cannot be limited under the First Amendment.

*Be it further Resolved*, That the City Clerk is directed to forward results of the advisory referendum to state and federal representatives.

Dated this 1st day of December, 2015

Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

December 1, 2015

referendum question