

RESOLUTION

SHERBURNE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 3, 2018

Date

040318-AD-1839

Number

WHEREAS, in 2010 the United States Supreme Court ruled in *Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission* that corporate entities have the same free speech rights as natural persons; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United* defined independent expenditures as a form of free speech and ruled that corporate entities have the same rights as natural persons to unrestricted spending on political speech; and

WHEREAS, corporations are not people, but artificial entities both nonprofit and for profit, bound by the laws of this country, this state and this city; and

WHEREAS, the Court's decision has the effect of permitting unlimited corporate and undisclosed spending to influence elections, campaigns, and public policy decisions, and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court's decision which overturned some provisions of the federal Campaign Reform Act enacted in 2002, greatly encumbers the ability of federal, state and local governments to enact and enforce reasonable campaign finance regulations regarding corporate political activity, and

WHEREAS since the Supreme Court's decision there has been a significant growth in contributions and spending for media messaging and independent electioneering activities, and

WHEREAS, government should require that permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed; and

WHEREAS, several proposed amendments to the constitution have been introduced in Congress that would allow federal, state and local governments to require the disclosure of money and to regulate the raising and expending of money by corporations to influence elections and public policy decisions; and

WHEREAS, the people of the United States have on several occasions used the constitution amendment process to correct decisions of the United States Supreme Court that are widely deemed to be egregious or wrongly decided or significantly out-of-step with the prevailing values of the populace;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Sherburne County supports the call for the United States Congress to pass an amendment to the United States Constitution to provide that:

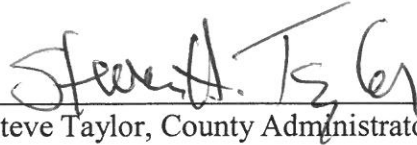
1. Corporations are not natural persons and only natural persons are endowed with Constitutional Rights.
2. Federal, State and local government shall have the power to regulate contributions and expenditures for elections and campaigns, and require public disclosure of the sources of contributions and expenditures for elections and campaigns.

Approved the 3rd day of April, 2018 on the following vote:

	Aye	Nay
Commissioner Burandt	<u>✓</u>	_____
Commissioner Petersen	<u>✓</u>	_____
Commissioner Dolan - Absent	_____	_____
Commissioner Schmiesing	<u>✓</u>	_____
Commissioner Fobbe	<u>✓</u>	_____



Lisa A. Fobbe, Board Chair



Steve Taylor, County Administrator