

## RESOLUTION 5 - 20

### SUPPORTING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO LIMIT CORPORATE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER THE FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

**WHEREAS**, it is our belief, that government of, by, and for the people has long been a cherished American value; and

**WHEREAS**, it is our belief, that free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective self-governance; and

**WHEREAS**, it is our belief that, pursuant to a plain reading of the United States Constitution, corporations are not human beings or natural persons, and therefore, without such status, are solely legal creations, bearing only the rights and privileges afforded them by the state laws under which they have been chartered; and

**WHEREAS**, it is our belief that, recent interpretation of the U.S. Constitution published by the U.S. Supreme Court which include domestic corporations within the definition of "persons" protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution may endow corporations with Constitutional protections under the First Amendment designed to protect only human beings and natural persons; and

**WHEREAS**, it is our belief that, the 1976 U.S Supreme Court ruling *Buckley v. Valeo* changed the course of American elections by establishing the doctrine that spending money to influence elections is a form of speech; and

**WHEREAS**, it is our belief that, on January 10, 2010, in the U.S. Supreme Court ruling *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*, the Court diverged from precedent by ruling that corporate spending on elections, pursuant to *Buckley v. Valeo*, is protected speech under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that "We the People" of the County of Lafayette, State of Wisconsin, seek to prevent and reduce the expansion of corporate personhood rights under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and the resulting influence of political contributions and spending made by U.S. corporations protected by the extension of such rights under the First Amendment. We stand with communities across the country to support passage of an amendment to the United States Constitution stating, in relevant part, that:


1. Only human beings are endowed with constitutional rights - not corporations, unions, nonprofits and other artificial entities; and
2. Money is not speech, and therefore limiting political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting speech.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that, at the cost of the party or parties putting forward said Resolution for submission, the Lafayette County Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution, if adopted by the County Board of Supervisors, to our state and federal representatives for the State of Wisconsin.


**Respectfully Submitted**

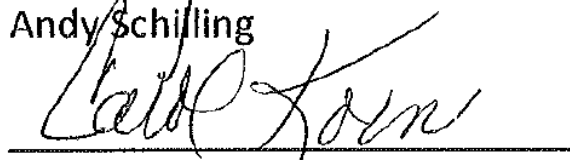
**EXECUTIVE, RULES & LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

  
Kriss Marion, Chair of Executive

  
Scott Pedley

  
Andy Schilling

  
Larry Ludlum

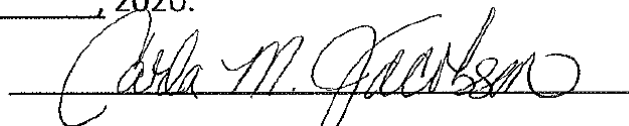
  
Carol Korn

FISCAL NOTE: No direct fiscal impact can be determined at this time.

LEGAL NOTE: Within County Board authority.

I, Carla M. Jacobson, Clerk of the County of Lafayette, State of Wisconsin, do certify that this resolution was adopted by the Lafayette County Board of Supervisors at a meeting held on

May 19, 2020.



Carla M. Jacobson  
Lafayette County Clerk