

RESOLUTION No. 2013-43

To support an amendment to the U.S. Constitution affirming that only human beings are endowed with Constitutional Rights, and money is not speech

WHEREAS, government of, by, and for the people has been an oft-stated and long-cherished American value, and We The People's fundamental and inalienable right to self-govern, and thereby secure rights to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness is proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence and guaranteed and codified to create a more perfect union in the US Constitution and Bill of Rights, and

WHEREAS, free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective self-governance, and

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

WHEREAS, corporations are entirely human-made legal entities created by express permission of We The People and our government, and

WHEREAS, corporations are not mentioned in the Constitution, and The People have never granted constitutional rights to corporations, nor have We decreed that corporations have authority that exceeds the authority of We The People of the United States, and

WHEREAS, the US Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United and related cases conferred constitutional rights onto corporate entities and allowed for unlimited spending to influence local, state and federal elections, and

WHEREAS, advisory referenda were recently conducted in the cities of Fort Atkinson and Whitewater, calling for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution as stated below, and those referenda were adopted with support of 76.86 % of voters in the City of Fort Atkinson and 83.20% of voters in the Jefferson County portion of the City of Whitewater,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors calls on Wisconsin's Congressional delegation to support, and the Wisconsin Legislature to ratify, an amendment to the United States Constitution stating:

1. Only human beings -- not corporations, unions, limited liability companies, non-profit organizations, or similar associations and corporate entities -- are endowed with constitutional rights, and

2. Money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Jefferson County State Legislators and Congressional Representatives, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Fiscal Note: No fiscal impact.

AYES 23

NOES 5

ABSTAIN 0

ABSENT 2

Requested by
Administration & Rules Committee

07-09-13

Jim Schroeder: 06-04-13