



Uniting Citizens Against Citizens United

Our nation was founded on the principle that “We, the People” are to govern ourselves as a democratic republic.

However, the Supreme Court has given constitutional rights meant only for individuals to artificial entities such as corporations, unions and super PACs, and has ruled that money spent to influence the political process cannot be limited. As a result, our government today serves powerful special interests, foreign and domestic, instead of the American people.

Therefore, a necessary step toward genuine self-governance is to amend the Constitution to make clear that:

- The rights protected in the Constitution are those of individual human beings only
- The spending of money is not speech, and political spending can be limited to allow all Americans to participate in the democratic process

Our mission is to amend the Constitution in order to achieve a government truly of, by, and for the people.

Getting the Big Money Out of Politics

The flood of money pouring into politics is drowning our democracy and corrupting our political system. Billionaires and corporate fat cats are spending billions of dollars to influence our elected officials. In return, they get more tax loopholes and laws that favor their businesses. It’s **crony capitalism** at its worst. This is **legalized bribery**, and the voices of everyday citizens are not being heard. It’s Fee Speech, not Free Speech and clearly not what our Founding Fathers intended.

This is a **non-partisan** issue. According to polls, over 90% of Americans are very concerned about the corruption in

Washington and want something done about it. This is about **political justice**. How can our politicians represent us, when they’re paid millions to represent someone else?

Building the Democracy Reform Movement

We find ourselves in a long-term struggle to save our representative democracy from dominance by moneyed special interests. Large corporate interests have attempted to influence governments for centuries, but the concerted effort in recent decades has been very successful. Income inequality has reached levels similar to the Gilded Age. Regaining control of our republic requires a **democracy reform movement similar in size to the women’s suffrage and civil rights movements**.

Our movement has already grown tremendously since the *Citizens United* decision in 2010. More than **5 million people** have signed petitions expressing their strong opposition to *Citizens United*. Over **700 communities** across the U.S. have already passed resolutions calling for a constitutional amendment, including over **90 governments in Wisconsin** and **18 state legislatures**. Once enough states press Congress on this, they will be forced to act.

What are we trying to do?

Our goal is to reclaim our representative democracy by permitting limits on how much money can be contributed and spent in American elections. To do this we must amend the U.S. Constitution to make it clear that only human beings have Constitutional rights - not corporations, unions and other artificial entities, and that money is not political speech under the First Amendment.

What can I do to help?

This is the **core issue** of our time. There are lots of issues that need to be addressed to get America back on track, but until “**we the people**” regain control of our republic, nothing will get fixed.

- Learn more: wiuta.org
- Sign our petition: wiuta.org/petition
- Talk to your friends & family
- Find us on Facebook & Twitter
- Find a group near you
- Donate: wiuta.org/donate
- Contact us!

Wisconsin United To Amend

wisconsin@unitedtoamend.org

(608) 316-1792

How did this get to be such a problem?

The Supreme Court has been slowly yielding to corporate pressure for over 130 years. In 1886, a loophole in the 14th amendment was exploited, which resulted in the legal fiction that corporations had human rights. In 1976, the Court ruled that money is equivalent to free speech. In the 2010 case, *Citizens United*, the Supreme Court struck down the McCain/Feingold law, which has resulted in unlimited campaign spending. These are three cases, but there are many more.

What is corporate personhood, and why are we so focused on it?

Under current law, corporations have inalienable human rights like free speech and privacy. This has wide-ranging implications – for example, the right to free speech means that corporations may spend unlimited amounts of money on political campaigns. The right to privacy means that regulators are not allowed to make surprise inspections on factories. Of course, the people who work for, run, and own corporations are entitled to the rights of free speech and privacy – but a corporation is not a person, it is a legal invention for making money, and the most egregious abuses of corporate power are made possible by the idea that they have human rights.

What do we have against corporations?

Nothing. Corporations are an essential part of our economy. But large corporations and wealthy individuals command resources vastly exceeding that of ordinary citizens. Therefore, unregulated political contributions and spending becomes grossly unbalanced. The voices of ordinary citizens are drowned out, our interests are sacrificed, our representation lost.

What about unions?

Unions are a type of a corporation and as such, their political contributions were deregulated by *Citizens United*, just like those of businesses, and their political contributions will be subject to regulation again after an amendment overturning *Citizens United* is adopted.

What about lobbying?

Lobbying is free speech protected by the First Amendment. It can serve a useful educational function in our democracy. It's perfectly fine for lobbyists to meet with politicians, but there shouldn't be any money exchanging hands, nor any favors. The Supreme Court has twisted our Constitution to favor the Donor Class. The Framers of our Constitution considered political corruption a key threat and we need to restore their original intentions.