

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that corporations are people and that money is speech and

WHEREAS, "In Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific Railroad – 118 U.S. 394 (1886), the reporter noted in the headnote to the opinion that the Chief Justice began oral argument by stating, "The court does not wish to hear argument on the question whether the provision in the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which forbids a State to deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws, applies to these corporations. We are all of the opinion that it does" and

WHEREAS, While the headnote is not part of the Court's opinion and thus not precedent, two years later, in Pembina Consolidated Silver Mining Co. v. Pennsylvania – 125 U.S. 181 (1888), the Court clearly affirmed the doctrine, holding, "Under the designation of 'person' there is no doubt that a private corporation is included [in the Fourteenth Amendment]. Such corporations are merely associations of individuals united for a special purpose and permitted to do business under a particular name and have a succession of members without dissolution" and

WHEREAS, the Fourteenth Amendment states that: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws," and

WHEREAS, neither the Constitution nor the Fourteenth Amendment mention corporations, unions, nonprofit organizations nor similar associations, nor grant these institutions the constitutional rights of citizens, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of VIROQUA does hereby support amending the United States Constitution to establish that:

1. Only human beings, not corporations, unions, nonprofit organizations nor similar associations are entitled to constitutional rights.
2. Money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of VIROQUA does hereby instruct our state and federal representatives to enact resolutions and legislation to advance this effort, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of VIROQUA does direct the Town Clerk to mail this resolution to the Towns Association, the President of the United States, the Governor of Wisconsin and our state and federal representatives.

Phil Hewitt Town Chair 4-15-14
Donna Kuehn Town Clerk 4-15-14
Passed 28-0 Annual Meeting 4-15-14
