

CITY OF BLACK RIVER FALLS RESOLUTION 2018-08

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' DECISION TO PLACE ADVISORY REFERENDUM ON NOVEMBER 6, 2018 BALLOT

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has a tradition of open government and nonpartisan local elections, as well as campaign finance rules that have managed and mitigated the influence of money on those elections; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Black River Falls has an interest in maintaining that tradition and the resident-driven elections it allows; and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2010 in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, the Supreme Court overturned a century of precedence by ruling that corporate spending on elections cannot be limited under the First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, granting constitutional rights to corporations is counter to the purpose of our democracy and has wide-ranging impacts upon our economy and society; and

WHEREAS, granting constitutional rights to corporations favors large corporations over small ones, and favors all corporations and all wealthy interest over citizens who cannot afford the corporation rights of limited liability, legal protections and tax deductions; and

WHEREAS, the constitutional right to speak freely should not be determined by the available finances of the speaker or their power and status in society; and

WHEREAS, corporate corruption of government was known and fought by the founding fathers. The original Boston Tea Party was a protest against unfair tax breaks bribed from the government by the British East India Company; and

WHEREAS, corporate, union, and PAC money is property, not speech. A house or a car does not have constitutionally protected speech. Money is just another form of property. Property is constitutionally protected. Property's right to free speech is not.

WHEREAS, The Jackson County Board of Supervisors authorized the following question be placed on the November 6, 2018 ballot: "Should the United States Constitution be amended to establish that regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting freedom of speech, by stating that only human beings, not corporations, unions or PAC's are entitled to constitutional rights?"; and

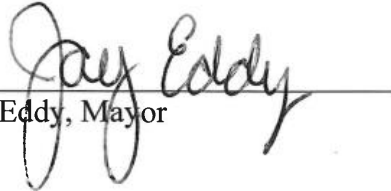
WHEREAS, the explanatory statement of the question states: A "YES" vote supports limiting spending by corporations, unions or Political Action Committees (PACs) by amending the U. S. Constitution to overturn the *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission* decision that equated regulating political contributions with restricting freedom of speech. A "YES" vote supports the position that "only human beings, not corporations, are entitled to constitutional rights." A "NO" vote supports unlimited spending by corporations, unions or Political Action Committee (PACs), does not amend the U.S. Constitution and would leave intact the *Citizens*

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United v. Federal Elections Commission decision. A “NO” vote supports the position that corporations, union and PAC spending on elections cannot be limited under the First Amendment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Black River Falls supports the Jackson County Board of Supervisors’ decision to place an advisory referendum on the November 6, 2018 ballot (Jackson County Resolution 21-4-2018).


Alex B. Chown, City Administrator


Jay Eddy, Mayor

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It was moved by Alderperson Olson and seconded by Alderperson Geating-Lancaster that the foregoing Resolution be adopted.

After discussion, upon roll call vote, the following voted "Aye": J. Rave, M. Rave, Olson, Busse, Geating-Lancaster, Rossi, Redbird

The following voted "No": None

The following Abstained! Brown

THE MAYOR DECLARED THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED

Acknowledgment:

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)ss.
COUNTY OF JACKSON)

Personally came before me this 14 day of August, 2018. The above-named Jay Eddy and Alex B. Chown, to me known to be the Mayor and City Administrator respectively of the City of Black River Falls, Jackson County, Wisconsin respectively, and to me known to be the persons who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledge the same.



Rhonda J. Ammann, Notary Public
Jackson County, State of Wisconsin
My Commission expires: 5-4-18

The undersigned who is the duly appointed, qualified and acting City Administrator of the City of Black River Falls, Jackson County, Wisconsin hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the City of Black River Falls Resolution 2018-08, which was adopted by the Common Council of the City of Black River Falls, Jackson County, Wisconsin on this 7th day of August, 2018.

Alex B. Chown
Alex B. Chown, City Administrator
Black River Falls, Wisconsin