

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM: EAU CLAIRE COUNTY**NOVEMBER 6, 2012**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at an election to be held in Eau Claire County, on Tuesday, November 6, 2012, the following question will be submitted to a vote of the people:

“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?”

YES ← →

NO ← →

The following is the full resolution passed by the Eau Claire County Board on June 19, 2012:

ENROLLED No. R156-019**RESOLUTION****FILE No. 12-13/036**

-AUTHORIZING AN ADVISORY REFERENDUM ON NOVEMBER 6, 2012 REGARDING WHETHER CORPORATIONS UNIONS AND PAC’S SHOULD HAVE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND WHETHER LIMITING POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS IS EQUIVALENT TO LIMITING FREEDOM OF SPEECH-

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, Eau Claire County 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 corporate 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.

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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors authorizes the following advisory referendum to be placed on the November 6, 2012 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?”

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT OF QUESTION

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 Election 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 Committees (PACs), does not amend the U.S. Constitution and would leave intact the Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission decision. A “NO” vote supports the position that corporate, union and PAC spending on elections cannot be limited under the First Amendment.