

Action Plan

Wisconsin United To Amend

Ultimate Goal: To restore democratic rule — of the people, by the people, and for the people — to the United States.

Immediate Goal: To amend the US Constitution to specify that:

- organizations aren't people (and thus don't have human rights),
- money isn't speech (and thus free spending is not free speech under the 1st Amendment), and
- the public good requires regulation of campaign financing.

Our preferred wording is called the “We the People” Amendment.

Phase 1: Education. Inform the citizenry of

- the nature of the problem,
- the possible cures for it,
- the importance of prioritizing this issue in order to achieve anything else they want to do,
- the need for a broad-based, trans-partisan, grass-roots effort to achieve our goal, and
- its doability (Don't despair; citizen action has scaled higher mountains than this in the past.)

Phase 2: Local Support. Organize citizens at the local level to get their municipalities, elected officials, churches, and similar organizations officially on record as supporting the “We the People” Amendment. Specifically, for municipalities (cities, villages, and towns) and counties, we seek such endorsement via either

- citizen referendum (preferred) or
- official resolution by the local governing body.

Phase 3: State Call to Amend. Armed with a groundswell of support from local constituents, get the Wisconsin Legislature to petition Congress to pass the “We the People” Amendment.

Phase 4: Congressional Action. Just as we leveraged local support to get the state legislature to act, so too do we join forces with other states to get the US Congress to act. Under Article 5 of the US Constitution, this can take either of 2 forms:

- $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Senate and $\frac{2}{3}$ of the House of Representatives can, on their own, adopt the “We the People” Amendment.
- If $\frac{2}{3}$ of the state legislatures request it, Congress is required to call a Constitutional Convention for the purpose of proposing amendments. (This has never actually happened; whenever it gets close to happening, Congress gets nervous and takes the former route.)

Phase 5: Ratification. The amendment process then returns to the states, where $\frac{3}{4}$ of them must ratify the amendment (usually within 7 years) for it to be officially adopted as part of the US Constitution.

Phase 6: Implementation. Achieving our immediate goal — passing the “We the People” Amendment — simply overrules the Supreme Court, preventing it from blocking reform on the pretext of free speech. It does not, in and of itself, adopt a single campaign-finance regulation. That task is left to the US Congress and 50 state legislatures, where we will already have established a presence and where we will urge them to act promptly and effectively to achieve our ultimate goal.