

Introduction

If you are using this handbook, you are likely already convinced that the only way for We-the-People to Reclaim our Republic from the moneyed interests that are destroying it is by demanding a constitutional amendment. You also likely understand several things:

- a) Corrupting money in politics has led to dysfunctional national congress and statehouses
- b) The current political climate and related system is incapable of fixing itself through legislation
- c) Corporations *should not* have the inalienable rights granted to biological persons and money *should not* be equivalent to free speech,
- d) Fixing these problems will require a U.S. constitutional amendment that overturns these two legal myths,
- e) Finally, that once the clarifying-statements are explicitly part of the constitution, we can work to get big money out of political campaigns and Reclaim our Republic and hope.

At the last revision of this manual, nineteen states have passed resolutions asking for a 28th constitutional amendment to get big-money out of politics. Wisconsin is not currently one of these states – and you are likely interested in changing that. Thank you.

This handbook is designed to provide a comprehensive resource for persons and communities that want to encourage our state legislators to put a referendum on a state-wide ballot – asking Wisconsin citizens if the state should call for an amendment that clarifies that “only human beings have constitutional rights” and “money is not speech.” The handbook contains general knowledge about how the local groups who are part of the “*United To Amend*” community are developing a reform movement to ultimately force an effective amendment. More important, it contains the recipes suggested to implement referenda efforts in these communities calling on the State as discussed earlier.

We see our role in the social movement as containing several approaches:

- a) Calling for “resolutions” in many communities to show our legislators that the citizens want the State of Wisconsin to call for an amendment
- b) Engaging in visible campaigns that show that this citizen interest is ubiquitous throughout Wisconsin – and, importantly, is non-partisan.
- c) Using multiple channels to show the legislators that THEIR “human person” constituents are asking them to vote to pass a State resolution in calling for an EFFECTIVE amendment.

Please be aware that there are resources being amassed to assist you in your journey to enliven your community to be a part of the social movement. We consider this a double-edged sword:

- a) There are fellow Wisconsinites available to assist you NOW in passing a resolution in your local community, AND
- b) We are hopeful that, after you have succeeded in this effort in your municipality, you will become part of the statewide team that helps other communities with referendum and related campaigns – and then helps build the reform movement around the state through awareness building and education.

This handbook is offered as a template for action that you will likely customize to fit the conditions and local-community personality. The handbook also provides examples of wordings, documents and tools used in other communities who have successfully passed local referenda and resolutions.

In addition to this handbook, and to help you interpret it, we have Advisors who will work closely with you toward your success.

The most important requirement for success in calling for local resolutions is a small group of

motivated leaders who can encourage other volunteers to assist in the tasks required for the referendum work. There needs to be two to four persons willing to work hard for several months to ensure tasks are managed and completed in timely manners.

The pages in this manual and so much more can be found at the Wisconsin United to Amend site = www.wiuta.org. To go directly to the Handbooks use this link: <http://wiuta.org/resources/city-village-handbook/>

Finally, this handbook is a work-in-progress. We encourage you to provide us with feedback on how to improve it. Do this during or after your work getting a referendum in your community.

We also encourage you to, on completion of your resolution effort, send us information that we can share with other communities preparing to start an effort. At the time of the initial publication of this handbook the contact person is:

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Good luck and we look forward to being partners assisting your success – and in continuing work after your first success.