TOWN OF GREENVILLE
RESOLUTION NO. 9-15

A RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REQUESTING ACTION TO
OVERTURN THE CITIZENS UNITED DECISION

Whereas: Free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective self-
governance, and;

Whereas: The 2010 Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission case, which was
decided by a split (5 to 4) decision, removed the legal limits on contributions and
expenditures in elections which:
(1) creates an unequal playing field and allows unlimited spending by individual
persons, corporations, unions, and other artificial entities to influence elections,
candidate selection, and policy decisions, and
(2) forces elected officials to divert their attention from the concerns of We the
People, or even vote against the interest of their human constituents, in order to
raise campaign funds for their own re-election, and;

Whereas: Corporations and unions are legal entities chartered by the government,
which, while they may be useful to the functioning of our economic system, are not
human beings and thus should not have the same Constitutional rights as American
citizens, and;

Whereas: Allowing for the unlimited contributions and spending of money on elections
is contrary to the democratic principle of one person, one vote. It allows those with the
most money to have an unfair advantage and undue influence in a political system
that was intended to ensure that all citizens have equal access to and influence in the
political process. The great wealth of big unions and multinational or large corporations
allows them to wield undue influence on this national electoral process, and;

Whereas: Millions of people, and Local, County, and State governments across the
nation are joining with the Move to Amend Campaign and passing resolutions
supporting an Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to: (1) eliminate the extension of
Constitutional rights – originally reserved for human beings – to corporate entities, and
(2) abolish the doctrine that political contributions and expenditures are equivalent to
free speech rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Greenville Board of Supervisors seeks
to reclaim democracy from the expansion of corporate personhood rights and the
corrupting influence of unregulated political contributions and spending. We stand
with the Move to Amend campaign and communities across the country to support
passage of an amendment to the United States Constitution stating:
1. Only human beings—not corporations, unions, non-profit organizations, or similar associations—are endowed with constitutional rights, and
2. Money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.
3. Nothing in the resolution shall be construed to abridge the freedom of the press.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Greenville Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to our state and federal representatives, directing them to enact resolutions and legislation to advance this effort.

The above resolution was duly adopted by the Town Board Supervisors, of the Town Greenville, Outagamie County, Wisconsin at a regular meeting held on October 12, 2015.

Ayes, 3 Nays, 2 Abstaining, Absent

By: Jack Anderson, Town Chair

Attest: Wendy Helgeson, Town Clerk