

Kapenga refuses to follow will of constituents

To the editor:

Remember your high school civics class, where you were told that our system of government is a “representative democracy” where we the people elect legislators to represent us so our voices may be heard through them? This process has become corrupted in recent years by Supreme Court decisions which equated money with speech, and gave corporations and so-called “charitable foundations” the same constitutional rights as we people, so the voices of us little people is drowned out by their unlimited money expenditures and propaganda. To address this, a grass-roots movement to direct our elected representatives to amend the U.S. Constitution to affirm that only people, not corporations, unions, nonprofit organizations or similar associations, are endowed with constitutional rights, and that money is not speech, so limiting political contributions and spending is not equivalent to restricting political speech, has gotten referendums placed on ballots in many states, including here in Wisconsin. These referendums passed overwhelmingly in 730 municipalities across the nation, including 105 in Wisconsin, where it passed by 69 percent in Waukesha and 79 percent in Delafield.

My representatives in the Legislature are Chris Kapenga and Cindy Duchow. They were asked at a listening session in Genesee Depot on Wednesday evening, considering the overwhelming votes on referendums in support of this amendment here in Wisconsin, including their own districts, if they will act to advance this amendment. They answered “no,” because they don’t agree with it. They were then asked if they would support a resolution in the Legislature to put the question on this amendment on the November 2018 ballot statewide, and if they would abide by the result of the vote. Kapenga again said “no,” so evidently the “will of the people” doesn’t matter unless it agrees with their own opinions or those of their well-heeled and powerful supporters.

So, are these people truly “our” representatives? That’s what the call for the amendment is all about.

Gerald Flakas

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