

City of Merrill

July 11, 2017

A Resolution supporting a constitutional amendment (Resolution #2515).

WHEREAS, government of, by and for the people has long been a cherished American value; and,

WHEREAS, free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective self-governance; and,

WHEREAS, corporations are not and never have been human beings or persons, and therefore are rightfully subservient to human beings and governments as our legal creations; and rightly are provided ONLY privileges by the states; and,

WHEREAS, interpretation of the U.S. Constitution by appointed Supreme Court Justices to include corporations in the term "persons" has long denied We the People's exercise of self-governance by endowing corporations with Constitutional protections intended by the Framers for ONLY We the People, and;

WHEREAS, in 1976 in the ruling on *Buckley v. Valeo*. The untenable decision of the Supreme Court changed the course of American elections and established the doctrine that spending money to influence elections is a form of speech; and,

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2010, in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*, the Supreme Court overturned a century of precedence by ruling that corporate spending on elections cannot be limited under the First Amendment,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERRILL, WISCONSIN this 11th day of July 2017, that "We the People" of the City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin, seek to reclaim democracy from the expansion of corporate personhood rights and the corrupting influence of unregulated political contributions and spending. We stand with communities across the country to support passage of an amendment to the United States Constitution stating:

1. Only human beings are endowed with constitutional rights - not corporations, unions, nonprofits or other artificial entities, and

2. Money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to our state and federal representatives - instructing them to enact resolutions and legislation to advance this effort.

Motion (Norton/Meehean) to approve.

Motion (Schwartzman/Meehean) to amend by adding the words "Super PACs" where appropriate. Motion to amend carried.

Alderwoman Ball requested a roll call vote on the main motion.

RESULT:	APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE [7 TO 1]
AYES:	Russell, Lokemoen, Schwartzman, Peterson, Burgener, Norton, Meehean
NAYS:	Ball