



## Why Businesses support an Amendment to Reclaim our Republic

Recent polls show that **corruption in government** is the top issue in politics today.<sup>1</sup> Americans understand that our **political system is dysfunctional** and a whopping **96%** think that **money in politics** is at least somewhat to blame.<sup>2</sup> Our elections are more like auctions. People just don't feel like they're being represented by their elected officials, because, well, they're not being represented.<sup>3</sup>

How did we get here? Our nation was founded on the principle that "We, the People" are to govern ourselves as a democratic republic.

However, the Supreme Court has given constitutional rights meant only for individuals to artificial entities such as corporations, unions, nonprofits and super PACs, and has ruled that money spent to influence the political process cannot be limited. As a result, our government today serves powerful special interests, foreign and domestic, instead of the American people.

Therefore, a necessary step toward genuine self-governance is to amend the Constitution to make clear that:

- The rights protected in the Constitution are those of individual human beings only
- The spending of money is not speech, and political spending can be limited to allow all Americans to participate in the democratic process

This is a **nonpartisan** issue with broad support. This movement has already grown tremendously since the **Citizens United** decision in 2010. More than **5 million people** have signed petitions expressing their strong opposition to *Citizens United*. Over **840 communities** across the U.S. have already passed resolutions calling for a constitutional amendment, including **over 160 governments in Wisconsin** (61% of Wisconsinites) and **22 state legislatures**. Once enough states press Congress on this, they will be forced to act.

**Small business owners** view the Citizens United decision as bad for small business. In an American Sustainable Business Council poll<sup>4</sup>, 66% of those surveyed said the ruling that gives corporations unlimited spending power in elections is bad for small businesses. Overall, 88% view the role money plays in politics negatively. In another poll, 87% of **American business leaders** say that the campaign finance system needs major reforms or a complete overhaul.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Polls on Money Corruption: <https://wiuta.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Money-In-Politics-Polls.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Dysfunctional Government: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2017/national/democracy-poll/>

<sup>3</sup> Gilens and Page Research: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592714001595>

<sup>4</sup> American Sustainable Business Council: [https://wiuta.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/small\\_business\\_poll\\_results\\_money\\_in\\_politics.pdf](https://wiuta.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/small_business_poll_results_money_in_politics.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Committee for Economic Development: [https://www.ced.org/pdf/Campaign\\_Finance\\_Hart\\_and\\_AmView.pdf](https://www.ced.org/pdf/Campaign_Finance_Hart_and_AmView.pdf)