



## Differences in Amendment / Resolution Language

The goal of United To Amend (UTA) is to get state legislators to put our resolution on a statewide ballot, so the people of Wisconsin can vote whether they want the legislature to call for an amendment. The state resolutions are [AJR 53](#) and [SJR 54](#). Our petition language is designed to be simple, yet consistent with the intent of the federal *We The People* Amendment ([H.J.Res. 48](#)).

Below is a comparison of the language of the *We The People* Amendment, the language on Move To Amend (MTA) site, and the “simplified” version on our petition & resolution.

You will notice that while the language on the MTA site is closer to that of the actual bill in Congress, there are significant differences.

The reason there are significant differences is that each of these serves a different function.

- a) The *We The People* language is the federal amendment we are trying to get passed.
- b) The MTA site language is designed to emulate that federal language and was developed prior to getting an actual bill drafted by Mark Pocan and others. The interest of the MTA language is to adequately represent what we want but be consistent over the years even if newer drafts of the actual bill change across future Congresses.
- c) Our goal in Wisconsin is to get our state to put a resolution on a statewide ballot, so the people can vote whether they want the State Legislature to call for an amendment. Our language is designed to as consistent with the intent of the actual bill introduced while simple both visually and linguistically for the voters to vote on.

The bottom line is that the UTA group of organizations want the exact same amendment (the ***We The People*** amendment) as do the MTA organizations – we just have a slightly different strategy for success.

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### ***We The People* Amendment Resolution ([H.J.Res. 48](#))**

SECTION 1. The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only. Artificial entities, such as corporations, limited liability companies, and other entities, established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state shall have no rights under this Constitution and are subject to regulation by the People, through Federal, State, or local law. The privileges of artificial entities shall be determined by the People, through Federal, State, or local law, and shall not be construed to be inherent or inalienable.

SECTION 2. Federal, State and local government shall regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures, including a candidate’s own contributions and expenditures, to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their economic status, have access to the political process, and that no

person gains, as a result of that person's money, substantially more access or ability to influence in any way the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure. Federal, State, and local governments shall require that any permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed. The judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to influence elections to be speech under the First Amendment.

#### **Move To Amend website:**

Section 1. [Artificial Entities Such as Corporations Do Not Have Constitutional Rights] . The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only. Artificial entities established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state shall have no rights under this Constitution and are subject to regulation by the People, through Federal, State, or local law.

The privileges of artificial entities shall be determined by the People, through Federal, State, or local law, and shall not be construed to be inherent or inalienable.

Section 2. [Money is Not Free Speech]

Federal, State, and local government shall regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures, including a candidate's own contributions and expenditures, to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their economic status, have access to the political process, and that no person gains, as a result of their money, substantially more access or ability to influence in any way the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure.

Federal, State, and local government shall require that any permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed.

The judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to influence elections to be speech under the First Amendment.

#### **United to Amend petition and resolution:**

**Resolved**, that "We the People" of the *[City/Village]* of *[Municipality]*, 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, non-profits or other artificial entities, and**

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

**Further Resolved**, that the *[City/Village]* of *[Municipality]*, Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to our state and federal representatives with instructions to enact resolutions and legislation to advance this effort.