



Getting the Big Money Out of Politics

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 and super PACs, and has ruled that money spent to influence the political outcomes 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 restoring 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

Our mission is to amend the Constitution in order to achieve a government truly of, by, and for the people.

We *WILL* Get the Big Money Out of Politics

The flood of money pouring into politics is drowning our democracy and has corrupted our political system. Billionaires and corporate fat cats are spending billions of dollars to influence our elected officials. In return, they get more tax loopholes and laws that favor their businesses. It’s **crony capitalism** at its worst. This is **legalized bribery**, and the voices of everyday citizens are not being heard. It’s *Fee Speech*, not Free Speech and clearly not what our Founding Fathers intended.

This is a **non-partisan** issue. According to polls, over 90% of Americans are very concerned about the corruption in Washington and want something done

about it. This is about **political justice**. How can our politicians represent us, when they’re paid millions to represent someone else?

Building the Movement to Restore our Republic

We find ourselves in a long-term struggle to save our republic from dominance by moneyed special interests. Large corporate interests have attempted to influence governments for centuries, but the concerted effort in recent decades has been very successful. Income inequality has reached levels equal to the Gilded Age. Restoring our republic requires a **reform movement similar in scope to the women’s suffrage and civil rights movements**.

Our movement has already grown tremendously since the *Citizens United* decision in 2010. More than **5 million people** across the country 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 **170 governments in Wisconsin and 22 state legislatures**. Once enough states press Congress on this, they will be forced to act. The joint resolution in Congress is called the **We The People Amendment**.

We are building a movement!

Our democracy is already crippled enough that it will take a movement to restore it. The system is broken and the politicians in power will not fix it. If the people do not demand change, it will not happen. WIUTA is facilitating this movement in Wisconsin. We are leading the nation in building the movement. And we are helping with other reforms such as redistricting and voting reforms. Are you ready to be the patriot we need to build this movement? ***Let's Fix This!***

What can I do to help?

This is the **core issue** of our time. There are lots of issues that need to be addressed to get America back on track, but until “**we the people**” restore our republic, nothing will get fixed.

- Learn more: wiuta.org
- Join our petition: wiuta.org/petition
- Talk, talk, talk to your friends & family
- Find us on Facebook & Twitter
- Tell your reps to support the amendment
- Donate: wiuta.org/donate
- Contact us to discuss how to help!

Wisconsin United To Amend

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How did this get to be such a problem?

The Supreme Court has been slowly yielding to corporate pressure for over 130 years. In 1886, an interpretation of the 14th amendment resulted in the legal myth that corporations had human rights. In 1976, the Court ruled that money is equivalent to free speech – another myth. In the 2010 case, *Citizens United*, the Supreme Court struck down the McCain/Feingold law, which then resulted in unlimited campaign spending. These are three cases, but there are many more.

What is corporate personhood, and why are we focused on it?

Under current law, corporations have inalienable human rights like free speech and privacy. This has wide-ranging implications – for example, the right to free speech means that corporations may spend unlimited amounts of money on political campaigns. The right to privacy means that regulators are not allowed to make surprise inspections on factories. Of course, the people who work for, run, and own corporations are entitled to the rights of free speech and privacy – but a corporation is not a person. It is a legal invention for making money, and the most egregious abuses of corporate power are made possible by the idea that they have human rights.

What do we have against corporations?

Nothing! Corporations are an essential part of our economy. But large corporations and wealthy individuals command resources vastly exceeding those of ordinary citizens. Therefore, unlimited political contributions and spending becomes grossly unbalanced. The voices of ordinary citizens are drowned out, our interests are sacrificed, our representation lost.

What about unions?

Unions are a type of corporation and as such, the *Citizens United* decision also removed any limits on their political contributions. Thus, Union contributions will also be subject to limits once an amendment overturning *Citizens United* is adopted.

What are we trying to do?

Our goal is to restore our republic by allowing limits on how much money can be contributed and spent in American elections. To do this we must amend the U.S. Constitution to make it clear that **only** human beings have Constitutional rights - not corporations, unions and other artificial entities, and that money is not political speech under the First Amendment.