

ARTICLE 33. Voted yes to instruct our members of Congress to support an amendment to the United States Constitution to clarify that corporations do not have the same rights as people and that money is not speech for purposes of election-related spending.

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights are intended to protect the rights of individual human beings ("real people"); and,

WHEREAS, corporations are not mentioned in the Constitution and The People have never granted rights to corporations;

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* presents a serious threat to self-government by allowing unlimited corporate spending to influence elections;

WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution empowers and obligates the people of the United States of America to use the constitutional amendment process to correct egregiously wrong decisions of the United States Supreme Court that go to the heart of our democracy;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the voters of Shelburne, Massachusetts hereby instruct the Senators representing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the member of the United States House of Representatives representing this Congressional District to propose and our state legislators to ratify an amendment to the United States Constitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the constitutional rights of real people and that money is not speech for purposes of campaign-related expenditures and contributions.

The text of the proposed amendment is as follows:

Amendment

Section 1 (A corporation is not a person and can be regulated)

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 (Money is not speech and can be regulated)

Federal, State, and local government shall regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures, including a candidate's own contributions and expenditures, for the purpose of influencing 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.

Section 3

Nothing contained in this amendment shall be construed to abridge the freedom of press.

(Petition Article Submitted By Susan Fraser Frankewicz)

MEETING DISSOLVED 8:30 PM

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Beverly Nulley
Joan Cherk