

## **Resolution in Support of an Initiative Urging an Amendment to the U.S. Constitution**

**Whereas** the United States Constitution identifies itself as stemming from “We the People,” in contrast to other nations where political power was retained by monarchs and/or oligarchs; and

**Whereas** the Constitution, throughout an amendment process spanning over 200 years, has extended the voting franchise in various directions, but never beyond natural persons who are U.S. citizens by birth or naturalization; and

**Whereas** corporations, being legal entities created artificially by operation of law, are not U.S. citizens and are therefore not qualified to exercise political rights in the United States; and

**Whereas** the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission* (2010) and other recent decisions, enunciated the novel and unprecedented principles that corporations are entitled to political rights and privileges tantamount to those of individual human beings, and that their use of money is a form of protected free speech; and

**Whereas** those decisions, and *Citizens United* in particular, invalidated campaign spending reform laws enacted by bipartisan majorities in Congress and thereby unleashed an unprecedented torrent of corporate money into our political process; and

**Whereas** poll after poll has established that the American public supports overturning those misguided rulings, the continuation of which poses an increasing threat to a democratic republic that relies on consent of the governed; and

**Whereas** the King County Democrats’ platform provides that corporations, “as artificial entities, ... are not entitled to the Constitutional rights of human beings”; and further provides, as it has since April 2010, that “[t]he Constitution must be amended to establish that corporations shall not be considered as ‘persons’ for purposes of political activity, and to reverse the pernicious notion that money equals speech”; and

**Whereas** the King County Democrats, on January 25, 2011, adopted a resolution asking the Washington State Legislature to pass a joint resolution urging the U.S. Congress to pass such a Constitutional amendment and send it to the states for ratification, and the Washington State Democratic Party adopted a resolution to the same effect on June 2, 2012, but the Legislature has twice failed to pass such a joint resolution; and

**Whereas** the Washington Coalition for a Constitutional Amendment (WAmend) is preparing an initiative to be circulated for signature in 2014 and placed before Washington voters that fall, to directly ask Congress to begin the process toward amending the U.S. Constitution in the respects noted above;

**Therefore, be it resolved** that we endorse the efforts of WAmend to promote such an initiative and urge our fellow Democrats and other friends and associates to help collect signatures to place it on the ballot, and to encourage all qualified voters to vote for it when given the opportunity.

*Adopted October 22, 2013, by King County Democratic Central Committee*

Similar resolutions previously adopted by 34<sup>th</sup> LD and 30<sup>th</sup> LD;

Edited by KCDCC Resolutions Committee

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More info available at [www.wamend.org](http://www.wamend.org).