
Here is the link to all OMNI newsletters: http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/ See the Index for related newsletters, such as Campaign Finance, Capitalism, Corporations, Democracy, Occupy.

CORPORATE-PENTAGON-Congress-President-Mainstream Media-Secrecy Complex

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Pledge to Amend on broadcast and livestream today at 2:30 PST
Rick Staggenborg staggenborg4senate@hotmail.com via uark.edu
7-25-2012
For those who are interested, I will be doing a live interview on a Klamath Falls (OR) radio show that is livestreamed and simulcast around the country on a network of college radio stations: http://www.oit.edu/current-students/campus-media/ktec

The topic will be the Pledge to Amend campaign, how it works and why I believe it is the only way to pass an amendment.
Pledge to Amend is a campaign to get candidates for Congress to openly declare whether or not they will support a constitutional amendment to abolish corporate personhood and ban all corporate campaign expenditures: http://www.soldiersforpeaceinternational.org/p/pledge-to-amend-campaign.html

Rick
In solidarity for peace and justice,
Rick Staggenborg, MD
Board President, Take Back America for the People
Founder, Soldiers For Peace International
Coos Bay, OR 541-217
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FUNDAMENTAL

“I personally feel that all liberal and progressive actions should be directed toward undoing the Citizen's United Supreme Court decision. . . . I'm waiting on Move to Amend to get a ball rolling. Unless that Court ruling is overturned then just about everything in every state is going to be corporatized.” Larry W

CONGRESSIONAL BEGINNINGS
From: Chuck Schumer <info@chuckschumer.com>
To: livanlern2002@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2011 5:09 PM
Subject: Amend the Constitution

Coralie --
Now more than ever, the American people are showing just how fed up they are with the explosion of big corporate influence over our politics.
And now more than ever, the Supreme Court is ignoring its own precedents to unleash a torrent of corporate and special interest money in our elections.
We must put the American people back in charge of our democracy. If the Supreme Court refuses to allow Congress and individual states to regulate the role of money in our elections, we must amend the Constitution to change that -- and together, we are beginning the amendment process this month.
Passing a constitutional amendment is no easy feat -- we've only passed 27 in our entire history, and powerful corporate interests are lining up against us as we speak -- but we can do this by hitting the ground running with a 21st century campaign to restore our democracy. And it all starts with you.
Sign our petition at ReverseCitizensUnited.com to amend the Constitution so Congress and the states can enact common-sense campaign finance reforms.
Historically, Congress and state legislatures have established contribution limits, disclosure requirements, and other rules to limit the influence of special interests in elections and ensure that government works for the American people, not powerful corporations.
Then, in last year's controversial Citizens United vs. FEC decision, Republican appointees on the Supreme Court overturned prior precedent and struck down Congress' sensible regulations on corporate spending in political campaigns.
A key solution to address the root cause of this problem is to amend the Constitution to make it absolutely clear to the Supreme Court and the special interests that Congress and state governments have the power to limit the flow of corporate money into campaigns.
Sign our petition now -- and then forward this email to your friends! Our constitutional amendment will stop the growing corrosive influence of big business on our elections and on our government, but it won't pass unless citizens like you demand it.
These historic times call for extraordinary measures to ensure our government remains of the people, by the people, and for the people -- not just powerful interests with the deepest pockets.
But we know these big corporate interests aren't going to give up without a fight, so we need you -- and tens of thousands of other Americans -- to join us.
Thank you for standing with us to return our elections to the hands of everyday citizens, rather than the special interests.
Sincerely,
Dick Durbin

We've contacted you because you signed up at ChuckSchumer.com or provided us with your email address, which is listed as livanlern2002@yahoo.com. Paid for by Friends of Dick Durbin, Jeff Merkley for Oregon, Friends of Schumer, Udall for Us All
Advocate of Constitutional Amendment

“We, the People,” *The Progressive* magazine (April 2012). Despite the immense difficulty in amending the Constitution, that route to controlling money in politics is better than the legislative or the regulatory under present circumstances. The authors promote the Move to Amend coalition (movetoamend.org).

“Lawmakers Unite with Activist Groups to Press for Constitutional Amendment on Citizens United”

Suzanne Merkelson, News Report, NationofChange April 21, 2012: Each member echoed Sanders, especially focusing on the momentum building across the country for such an amendment. Hawaii, New Mexico, and this week, Vermont, have all passed resolutions in their state legislatures calling on Congress to overturn Citizens United. They’re joined by over 147 cities nationwide that have passed resolutions. The summit highlighted the Resolutions initiative spearheaded by Public Citizen and other organizations, aimed at passing local resolutions the week of June 11. READ | DISCUSS | SHARE [http://www.nationofchange.org/lawmakers-unite-activist-groups-press-constitutional-amendment-citizens-united-1335014406](http://www.nationofchange.org/lawmakers-unite-activist-groups-press-constitutional-amendment-citizens-united-1335014406)

Sent: 2/21/2012 11:29:36 A.M. Central Standard Time

**Subj: Move to Amend Ohio adopts Pledge to Amend strategy**

Move to Amend Ohio is not sitting around waiting for marching orders from the national steering committee.

Attached is a letter that can be downloaded and sent to candidates for Congress asking them to take a stand on the need for a constitutional amendment. I encourage others to put it on their websites.

Perhaps some day we will see it on movetoamend.org.

In solidarity for liberty and justice for all,

Rick Staggenborg, MD

Board President, Take Back America for the People

Board member, Abolish Corporate Personhood Now

Member, National Council of Alliance for Democracy

Chair, Veterans for Peace national work group on corporate personhood

Coos Bay, OR 541-217-8044

OHMTAPledgetoAmendletter.doc

75K  View  Download  Web Site: [http://movetoamend.org](http://movetoamend.org)

**Correct More Than Symptoms**

From: Move to Amend [mailto:info@MoveToAmend.org]

Wednesday, February 08, 2012
Dear Sue,  suesactivism@mchsi.com

In a campaign statement this week, President Obama stated his support for a constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United Supreme Court ruling. His comments prove that we are making an impact -- folks in Washington, DC are beginning to pay attention to the Democracy Movement sweeping the rest of the country.

Too bad the President isn’t demanding a constitutional amendment that would not only overturn Citizen’s United, but would also overturn the twin doctrines that “money is speech” and “corporations are people.”

Don’t get us wrong, we’re glad Obama may be moving in our direction, but our goal at Move to Amend is to force Washington DC to act on our systemic constitutional amendment, not merely to go back to 2009 and the pre-Citizens United days when corporations and the very wealthy still ran our government. Your effective grassroots organizing is helping build a mass democracy movement to put the power in the hands of the people. We are well on the way to passing resolutions and citizens initiatives across this country, calling on for an amendment to end corporate personhood and put the “free” back in speech.

Obama’s partial remedy, which is also shared by a number of other non-profit organizations, merely scratches the surface of campaign financing and completely ignores corporate personhood. For a good understanding of why corporate personhood should be abolished, check out this article by the Program on Corporations, Law and Democracy -- a founding member of the Move to Amend coalition.

Let’s actually fix the two biggest problems standing between good government and We the People, and set the stage for American democracy to flourish. We can't assume that we'll get more than one chance at this amendment -- let's make sure we get it right and that we get change that's real.

In solidarity,Ben Manski, David Cobb, Leesa "George" Friday, Jerome Scott, Kaitlin Sopoci-Belknap, Laura Bonham, Lisa Graves, and Nancy Price

Move to Amend Executive Committee

PS -- Adam Liptak has provided some provocative insights in this article on the decline of the U.S. Constitution as a model for emerging democracies. He cites, among many other issues, the difficulty of amending it. Perhaps it is time to consider expanding our views on the Constitution and imagine a legal system that really protects people's rights over profits.

PUBLIC CITIZEN is a good source of information. Visit DemocracyIsForPeople.org to learn more. To get regular e-alerts about opportunities for activism and other ways to help with Public Citizen’s work, sign up for the Public Citizen Action Network. Common Cause is another excellent public service organization.

PUBLIC CITIZEN: WRITING THE NEXT CHAPTER, 1-28-12

Dick,

Two years and one week ago today, corporations got a windfall that left our democracy reeling. You’ve heard a lot since then from Public Citizen about Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission — the radical U.S. Supreme Court ruling that enables corporations to manipulate our elections — and our Democracy Is For People campaign to overturn it.
And last weekend — at more than 350 events in nearly every state — you, your friends and your neighbors marked the two-year anniversary of the court’s historically misguided ruling and began writing the next chapter in the story of American democracy. Together, we are rescuing our democracy from corporate rule and reclaiming it for We the People!


People rallied by the thousands outside Bank of America branches, Chevron gas stations and other corporate outposts in our communities. We gathered with lawmakers on the steps of courthouses and federal buildings, city halls and state Capitols. We marched. We held “funerals” to mourn the loss of our democratic rights. We “occupied” and demonstrated. We performed skits and street theater. We conducted lobby meetings and teach-ins. And we united with one message: We must rid our democracy of the corrosive scourge of corporate political spending and we will exercise our constitutional power to ensure that democracy is for people. With hundreds of stories in the papers, on television, on the radio and online, the buzz about our campaign has reached a new level.

Our movement is building concrete grassroots and political support for a constitutional amendment, including state resolutions in California, Maryland, Massachusetts and Vermont as well as local measures in dozens of communities, from New York to Los Angeles, Duluth to South Miami. And more than 60 national organizations — including consumer, civil rights, labor, health and environmental groups — signed a call to action supporting our constitutional reform efforts.

Read more about last weekend’s events and our amendment campaign at our blog, CitizenVox.

What happens next?

The events around the anniversary of the Supreme Court’s perverse ruling were a big success. But we have much more work to do to keep the momentum going for a constitutional amendment.

Over the next few months, we’ll build on our progress toward resolutions in key states and increase our capacity to support activists who are helping to push local measures. We’ll reach out to more and more organizations to secure their involvement. We’ll convince more and more members of Congress to get behind our campaign.

And we’ll create more opportunities to partner with you and the millions of people around the country who believe this campaign is essential to the survival of our democracy.

Together, we’ve put this movement on the map, and we need your help to keep it moving.

Our response — last weekend and every day going forward — to the brazen hubris of our corporate “citizens” is this:

We will NOT stand by as corporations try to dismantle democracy.

We treasure our democracy and our constitutional rights. That’s a democracy of We the People. And rights for living, breathing, feeling, thinking human beings — not lifeless, undying, amoral, greed-
driven giant corporations.

Thank you for standing with Public Citizen to stand up to out-of-control corporate power and to preserve democracy.

Onward,

Robert Weissman
President, Public Citizen

Media Advisory: Fayetteville to Participate in national Occupy the Courts protest
January 17, 2012
Dear friends concerned with corporate personhood, I thought you may be interested in this week’s Occupy the Courts demonstration on the second anniversary of Citizens United (press release below). These protests are happening nationwide at over 100 Federal Courts. Additionally, over 50 cities have recently passed corporate personhood resolutions, including Los Angeles, New York City, Albany, Duluth, Portland, Boulder, Madison, Oakland and new cities are added to the list every week.

We hope to add Fayetteville to the list as soon as possible. This appears likely considering our courageous city councilman Matt Petty has said he is working on introducing this. If you are willing, attend this event and send this announcement out to friends and email contacts that may be interested. Also, please email or call our local elected officials and ask them to support this crucial effort to end corporate rule and deeply improve democracy.

Thank you!
Abel

Move to Amend
www.movetoamend.org/occupythecourts

MEDIA ADVISORY for Friday, January 20, 2012
Fayetteville to Participate in OCCUPY THE COURTS – January 20, 2012
Over 100 Protests Planned at Courthouses Nationwide Against Supreme Court Ruling that Corporations Are People

Over 100 courthouses, including the John Paul Hammerschmidt Federal Building in Fayetteville and the Supreme Court, will become the focus of Occupy protesters against corporate rule on Friday, January 20. This is one day before the second anniversary of the Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission decision, in which the Supreme Court ruled that corporations are persons, entitled by the U.S. Constitution to buy elections and run the government.

Neither the Declaration of Independence nor the Constitution mentions corporations, which were rare entities at our nation’s founding. But thanks to decades of rulings by Justices who molded the law to favor elite interests, corporations today are granted privileges that empower them to deny citizens the right to full self-governance. Armed with these rights, corporations wield ever-increasing control over jobs, natural assets, elected officials, judges and the law.

We believe corporations are not persons and possess only the privileges citizens and their elected representatives deliberately grant them. Organizers of OCCUPY THE COURTS propose a Constitutional Amendment that will overturn the Court-created legal doctrines of corporate personhood and “Money Equals Speech.

"WHEN: Friday, January 20, 12 p.m. (noon)
WHERE: John Paul Hammerschmidt Federal Building, College Avenue, Fayetteville
WHO: Occupy NWA and Move to Amend Arkansas
To learn more about OCCUPY THE COURTS – 1.20.2012 please visit www.movetoamend.org/occupythecourts.
# # #

Wednesday 4 January 2012
Montana State Supreme Court: Citizens United Not Welcome Here
Sam Ferguson, Truthout, January 4, 2012: "The Supreme Court of Montana has held that Citizens United does not apply to Montana campaign finance law. The Court upheld the constitutionality of a 1912 voter initiative - the Corrupt Practices Act - that prohibits corporations from making contributions to or expenditures on behalf of state political candidates and political parties. Montana ... is the only state court so far to uphold a ban on corporate political expenditures in the wake of Citizens United."

New York City Council Votes Against Corporate Personhood, Citizens United
Yana Kunichoff, Truthout, January 4, 2012: "Missoula, Montana; Boulder, Colorado; and South Miami, Florida, have all done it, but you know it's really catching on when the Big Apple jumps on board. The New York City Council voted Wednesday to get rid of corporate personhood in a growing nationwide backlash against the much-maligned Citizens United ruling."

Billionaire Gives $5 Million to Pro-Gingrich Group
Beth Fouhy, Associated Press, Jan. 8, 2012
Fouhy reports: "A Las Vegas billionaire has contributed $5 million to an independent group backing Newt Gingrich, breathing new life into the former House Speaker's struggling campaign for the GOP presidential nomination and casting renewed attention on the role of such groups in the 2012 contest."

“Corporations Are Not People” Review of Jeffrey Clements book by that title by Thom Hartmann, Truthout, Feb. 1, 2012. [See Newsletter #3 for additional commentary on this excellent book.]
"Most Americans don't realize that the idea that 'corporations are people' and 'money is speech' are concepts that were never, ever considered or promoted or even passed by any legislature in the history of America. Jeff Clements, a former assistant attorney general for Massachusetts, has written a brilliant and very accessible guide to the 2010 US Supreme Court Citizens United decision, how it came about and what can be done about it."
Read the Article http://www.truth-out.org/corporations-are-not-people/1328107954

Oligarch Olympiad
Robert Weissman, Public Citizen robert@citizen.org via uark.edu
6:36 AM (2 hours ago) to jbennet
Dick,

In England, athletes from around the world are competing in the Olympic Games, proudly representing their nations and embodying the essence of sportsmanship as they push each other to the peaks of human athletic achievement.

In America, a far less wholesome contest is playing out as multinational corporations and insatiable billionaires with no allegiance to country vie to outspend each other corrupting our elections.
It’s the Oligarch Olympiad.

With medals for greed, secrets and bribes.

We don’t know who’s “winning” because so much of the havoc they’re wreaking is happening in the dark.

But we know what we risk losing.

Our common sense: Corporations are not people.

Our principles: One person, one vote.

Our democracy: Of the people, by the people, for the people.

Fortunately, we are not mere spectators to this game.

With Public Citizen, you are part of a team that is defending democracy from an assault by the most gluttonous forces in our society.

Look what we’ve accomplished together in just the few weeks since my previous update on our campaign for a constitutional amendment to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court’s rotten Citizens United v. FEC ruling:

With Public Citizen organizers and activists leading the way, Massachusetts this week became the seventh state to pass a resolution calling for an amendment. In only a month, a petition drive in Colorado spearheaded by a coalition including Public Citizen collected enough signatures (100,000 and counting) to put an amendment resolution on the state’s ballot this November.

We’re ramping up our work in other states, including New Jersey and Montana, generating more and more amendment momentum.

Last week, the U.S. Senate held its first formal hearing on a possible amendment after intensive pressure from Public Citizen and our allies.

Public Citizen supporters in the Windy City were instrumental in the Chicago City Council’s passage of an amendment resolution last week. Activists from Public Citizen and partner organizations have helped advance resolutions in over 400 cities and towns throughout the country, with many more on the horizon.

We’ve launched a campaign to help people in every state meet with their representative and senators during the congressional recess this month to drive up demand for a constitutional amendment in Congress. Our goal for this phase of the campaign: 100 amendment supporters in the U.S. House of Representatives by the end of 2012.

It is impressive what we get done together — all the more so because we do it on a human scale despite inhuman adversaries.

We must capitalize on this momentum.

These incremental victories put us on the path to defeating a foe that would undo a century of progress.

It’s true they have more money. We don’t need as much as they have.
We just need a little bit from every person like you who knows that corporate greed must be kept in check.

If you think I ask for your support too much, I understand. Keep signing our petitions, contacting your members of Congress, and taking the other actions we tell you about in our e-alerts.

But bear this in mind:
Karl Rove is spending every dirty dollar he can get his grubby hands on.
The Koch Brothers are behaving like the robber barons of a rightly bygone era.
Casino magnate Sheldon Adelson may spend as much gambling with our democracy this year as it would take to run Public Citizen for the rest of this decade.
I’m asking you to give $3 or more RIGHT NOW so that Public Citizen has the modest resources we need to stay in the game — and to go on winning — against vastly wealthier opponents.

Are you with me?

Onward,

Robert Weissman
President