

**RESOLUTION: IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED 28TH "WE THE PEOPLE AMENDMENT"  
TO ABOLISH THE DOCTRINES OF "CORPORATE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS" AND  
"MONEY EQUALS POLITICAL SPEECH"**

**CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**

WHEREAS, "We the People" have the inherent right to self-government, autonomy, and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, multinational corporations have become so large and powerful that they threaten our sovereign right to govern ourselves; and

WHEREAS, only people are entitled to claim constitutional rights; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has illegitimately held that corporations have the constitutional rights of people directly impacting the integrity of elections; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court has illegitimately held that the expenditure of money is a form of protected political speech; and

WHEREAS, the amount of money being raised and spent in elections is causing ordinary citizens to lose confidence in the integrity of our own government and jeopardizing our democracy; and

WHEREAS, neither the idea that corporations are people, nor the idea that money is speech, is mentioned anywhere in the text of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, in *Citizens United v. FEC*, the Supreme Court decided that limiting the amount corporations can spend to influence elections is a violation of the "free speech rights" of "people," and therefore unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, in *McCutcheon v. FEC*, the Supreme Court decided that limiting the aggregate amount wealthy individuals can spend on political races is a violation of their "free speech rights" under the First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the only way to permanently reverse the damage done by these decisions is to amend the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, an important first step toward this goal is for organizations and communities across the country to publicly state their support for this course of action; and

WHEREAS, across the country more than 600 local governments have called for such an amendment as well as more than 300 communities voted at the ballot box in support of same; and

WHEREAS, across the country more than 1,000 organizations have voted to endorse such an amendment; and

WHEREAS, *Citizens United v. FEC* has unleashed a torrent of corporate electioneering that drowns out the countervailing force of organized labor, as well as the voices of everyday Americans, in the political process; and

WHEREAS, elections have broad-reaching consequences; and

WHEREAS, workers and labor unions specifically have historically been at the forefront of virtually every struggle for social and economic justice in this country; and

WHEREAS, H.J. Resolution 48 was introduced in the House of Representatives of the Congress by Representative Pramila Jayapal (D-WA-7) on February 22, 2019; and

WHEREAS, H.J. Res 48 proposes an amendment to the United States Constitution providing that the rights protected by the Constitution are the rights of "natural persons" **only** and 'artificial entities', such as corporations, shall have no such rights under the Constitution and are subject to regulation; and

WHEREAS, said amendment would require federal, state and local government to (1) regulate, limit or prohibit election contributions and expenditures, including a candidate's own contributions and expenditures; and (2) would require that any permissible contributions and expenditures be publically disclosed; and

WHEREAS, said amendment would prohibit the judiciary from construing that the spending of money to influence elections to be speech under the First Amendment, and the amendment shall not be construed to abridge the freedom of the press; and now

THEREFORE, BE IT **RESOLVED**, that the Central Labor Council of Contra Costa County will vigorously support H.J. Res 48;

BE IT FURTHER **RESOLVED**, that the Central Labor Council of Contra Costa County will work to educate our members about these issues and the clear need for a constitutional amendment; and

BE IT FURTHER **RESOLVED**, that the Central Labor council of Contra Costa County will encourage the Representatives within their jurisdiction to become a cosponsor of H.J. Res 48 and/or thank those Representatives that have already become cosponsors, as well as the Speaker of the House; and

BE IT FURTHER **RESOLVED**, that the Central Labor Council of Contra Costa County will encourage Senator Dianne Feinstein and/or Senator Kamala Harris to introduce a companion to H.J. Res 48 in the Senate;

BE IT FINALLY **RESOLVED**, that the Central Labor Council of Contra Costa County will vigorously encourage the AFL-CIO to support H.J. Resolution 48 2019.

Submitted by: Susan A. Hammer, APWU, East Bay Area Local #47