

December 1, 2016

We, the undersigned co-leaders and an additional four residents of the City of Racine, request the Common Council consider passing the following Resolution, and placing its Referendum on the April 2017 ballot for residents to voice their opinion. As additional support for the Common Council to submit this Resolution to a vote by the people, 1,435 City of Racine residents have signed a petition calling for the Resolution. The petition was circulated by volunteers during the month of November, primarily outside of just four city polling places during the election just past.

## RESOLUTION

### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION By the City of Racine Supporting a Constitutional Amendment**

**Whereas**, government of, by, and for the people has long been a cherished American value, and;

**Whereas**, free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective self-governance, and;

**Whereas**, corporations are not and never have been human beings or persons, and therefore are rightfully subservient to human beings and governments as our legal creations; and rightly are provided ONLY privileges by the states, and;

**Whereas**, interpretation of the U.S. Constitution by appointed Supreme Court Justices to include corporations in the term “persons” has long denied We the People’s exercise of self-governance by endowing corporations with Constitutional protections intended by the Framers for ONLY We the People, and;

**Whereas**, in 1976 in the ruling on *Buckley v. Valeo*. The untenable decision of the Supreme Court changed the course of American elections and established the doctrine that spending money to influence elections is a form of speech; and;

**Whereas**, on January 10, 2010, in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*, the Supreme Court overturned a century of precedence by ruling that corporate spending on elections cannot be limited under the First Amendment; now therefore,

**Resolved**, that “We the People” of the City of Racine, Wisconsin, seek to reclaim democracy from the expansion of corporate personhood rights and the corrupting influence of unregulated political contributions and spending. We stand with communities across the country to support passage of an amendment to the United States Constitution stating:

1. **Only human beings – not corporations, unions, nonprofits or other artificial entities – are endowed with constitutional rights, and**
2. **Money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.**

**Further Resolved** that the City of Racine, Wisconsin, Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to our state and federal representatives – instructing them to enact resolutions and legislation to advance this effort.

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor City of Racine

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
City of Racine Clerk

## REFERENDUM BALLOT LANGUAGE

**Shall the City of Racine adopt the following resolution?**

**Resolved**, that “We the People” of the City of Racine, Wisconsin, seek to reclaim democracy from the expansion of corporate personhood rights and the corrupting influence of unregulated political contributions and spending. We stand with communities across the country to support passage of an amendment to the United States Constitution stating:

- 1. Only human beings are endowed with constitutional rights — not corporations, unions, nonprofits or other artificial entities, and**
- 2. Money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting speech.**

A “Yes” vote on this resolution would indicate support for a Constitutional Amendment, while a “No” vote would indicate opposition to an Amendment.

## SIGNERS OF REQUEST

Co-Leaders:

Elaine Kinch  
1638 Villa Street  
Council Dist 2

William Earley  
Caledonia

City of Racine Residents:

Thomas Rutkowski  
2615 N. Main Street  
Council Dist 5

Rick Melcher  
2414 Drexel Avenue  
Council Dist 10

Mike and Anne Frontier  
1127 Lake Avenue  
Council Dist 2

John Heckenlively  
410 Seventh Street  
Council Dist 1