



Initiative measure as submitted to Oregon Secretary of State

Oregon We the People Initiative

Whereas:

- Decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court have equated spending money in elections with speech and granted corporations the constitutional rights of the People, permitting the wealthy to buy enormous influence in our government through uncontrolled political spending. This undermines the aspirations of Oregonians to a true democracy with a level playing field.
- Corporations, including for-profit and non-profit organizations, unions, and other artificial legal entities, are created under state laws. There is no mention of these entities in the Constitution.
- Money is property, not speech. Its unregulated use for political purposes creates unequal access to political power and influence. Money contributed or spent for political purposes should be subject to regulation.

Therefore:

(1) We the People of the state of Oregon, with the legislative power retained by us under the Oregon Constitution (including Article IV, Section 1, and Article II, Section 18), hereby call for an Article V Convention by enacting into law this Application, in accordance with Article V of the U. S. Constitution, for the specific and exclusive purpose of considering a Constitutional Amendment consistent with the following principles:

(a) Corporations Are Not People. Artificial entities, such as corporations, unions and non-profit corporations, established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state, shall have no constitutional rights and shall be subject to regulation by the People, through Federal, State or Local law. Nothing in this clause shall be construed to limit the rights of the People as specified in the U.S. Constitution and its Amendments.

(b) Money is Not Speech. Money is property and shall not be construed as speech. The People, to ensure a level playing field for all people regardless of their economic status, empower and direct Federal, State, and Local governments to regulate, limit or prohibit the contribution and spending of money for political purposes and to require full and prompt public disclosure of all such transactions.

(2) This measure constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States, until at least two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states have made similar applications pursuant to Article V.

(3) A copy of this initiative shall be transmitted to the President of the United States; to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation; to the presiding officers of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives; to each Governor and presiding officer of each legislative body of each of the United States.

(4) This Application shall be codified in Title 17 of Oregon Revised Statutes.