



American Promise 28th Amendment Candidate Pledge

I support amending the United States Constitution to 1) secure fair, free elections by limiting the undue influence of money in politics; 2) protect the rights of all Americans to equal participation and representation, rather than overrepresentation of donors and special interests; and 3) protect the unalienable liberty of people rather than new privileges for the largest corporations, unions, and special interests; and

I pledge to use my office to advance this 28th Amendment in any and all legal ways, including, but not limited to: sponsoring or cosponsoring bills, resolutions, or other legislation advancing proposal or ratification of the 28th Amendment; voting in favor of such bills and resolutions in committee, subcommittee, or floor votes; working to build cross-partisan support; and publicly advocating for the necessity of this Amendment.

Name

Signature

Office

State

Date

Please sign this pledge, and return it to American Promise in one of the following ways:

Scan or take a picture and upload here:
<http://www.americanpromise.net/pledge>

Scan or take a picture and email to:
johannese@americanpromise.net

Send the paper pledge to:
American Promise, 33 Bradford Street, Concord MA, 01742



The Problem

Money isn't speech; it's power. Supreme Court decisions such as *Buckley v. Valeo* and *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* created radical new "free speech rights" for money, corporations, unions and special interests at the expense of the rights of all Americans and the interests of the country. The concentrated financial influence of special interests in our politics is the number one problem our nation faces, and the survival of American democracy is on the line if we fail to act. Now, the 28th Amendment is more urgent than ever. The Supreme Court won't fix its catastrophic mistake, so it's up to the people and our elected representatives.

Our Constitution guarantees the proposition that all people are created equal. No entity – be it a global corporation, international union, or political party - can take away the inherent rights of human beings. Our American birthright is built on that fundamental assurance. We have been living through a decades-long trend where global corporations and special interests have been gaining "super-citizen" status. *Citizens United v. FEC* is a 2010 Supreme Court ruling that says: 1) corporations have the same rights as humans, 2) limitless political spending is the same as free speech, and 3) Americans cannot set limits on political spending.

The Solution

An amendment is the only way to rebuild the foundation of American democracy by allowing the American people to set common sense, fair limits on political spending. Right now, the Supreme Court says we are prohibited from setting limits to money in our politics because money is free speech. Americans overwhelmingly disagree, and know that effective republican democracy requires the voices of all, the participation of all. A political system based on money isn't democracy; it's plutocracy. The 28th Amendment will reverse the Supreme Court's catastrophic mistake (and will be the eighth time the American people used the amendment process to reverse Supreme Court mistakes that endangered the nation).

Americans won all twenty-seven previous Constitutional amendments—including the Bill of Rights, equal rights for all regardless of race, votes for women, term limits on Presidents, election of Senators and an end to the poll tax—by forcing 2/3 of Congress to propose the Amendment, and ¾ (38) state legislatures to ratify the amendment.

Now we will do so again.

The 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution replaces the Supreme Court's doctrine of political inequality, reflected in decisions such as *Citizens United v. FEC*, with foundational American principles of equal citizenship and representation and safeguards against systemic corruption.

The 28th Amendment will: 1) secure fair, free elections; 2) protect the rights of all Americans to equal participation and representation; and 3) return to original liberties for people rather than new privileges for the largest corporations, unions, and special interests.