

WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

Because of the many advantages corporations have over people: being virtually immortal, the ability to be in many places at once and containing the combined energy, wealth, political leverage and brain power of many people focused on maintaining and increasing its prosperity, **plus** the legal constitutional rights of citizens, it is all too easy for corporations to overwhelm the will of the people and their communities.

The relationship between the individual citizens of the United States and corporations has become inverted. Instead of the citizens controlling corporations through their government, their laws and their courts, corporations, with the complicity of the courts, have regained ascendancy over us: the people, and our government. We now have a government of, by and for corporations.

Is that what you want?

WHAT CAN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL DO ABOUT IT?

To save our constitutional republic as a government of, by and for the people, to reclaim our rightful status as sovereign citizens with power to insure that the activities of corporations serve the public benefit and do no public harm **all corporate constitutional rights must be abolished.**

Corporations must be forced to return to their rightful place as legal and administrative constructs, held accountable to the sovereign people by their democratically elected government through charter, and **the power of**

charter revocation, should corporate actions be found not to be conducive to the short and long term betterment of society as a whole.

This will require a Constitutional Amendment.

To accomplish this, the active support of our Neighborhood Councils, the most grassroots level of our governmental structure, is needed, To build the deepest and broadest public understanding possible of the destructive power of “corporate personhood” and to empower us all with the passion and know-how to put an end to it.

Your Neighborhood Council has the power to pass a non-binding Resolution calling for a Constitutional Amendment and other legislative actions to establish that only living human beings, not corporations, are endowed with Constitutional rights and that money is not the same as free speech.

In the last 2 years, a Resolution similar to the one reprinted on the back of this flyer has been approved by several Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils and even California municipalities, including the L.A. City Council, have taken a stand against corporate personhood. On December 6th L.A. City Council passed their Resolution, the largest city so far to have done so. More Resolutions are passing in communities across the United States every month, including Albany, New York, which passed its Resolution the same day as the L.A. City Council.

The City Council called their Resolution #11-0002-S123, “Corporate Activities in Electoral Processes” and included recommended Amendment language as an attachment which is reprinted on the back of this flyer.

The time is late. Much political, social and economic harm has already been done. This background information is provided by Move To Amend, L.A. Chapter, to encourage you to vote for a Resolution, when it appears before your Neighborhood Council, in support of amending the Constitution to clearly state that only human beings, not corporations, are people entitled to constitutional protections and rights and that corporate money spent to influence elections is not equivalent to free speech.

Thank you for joining this local and national effort to take back our democracy.

MOVE TO AMEND, www.MoveToAmend.org is a coalition of individuals and organizations dedicated to returning power to the people over corporations and government.

Resources: *Corporateering: How Corporate Power Steals Your Freedom* by Jamie Court Paul Cienfuegos article *Corporations vs People* (www.alternativeradio.org)

**MOTION # CF11-0002-S123
PASSED BY LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL
ON DECEMBER 6TH, 2011**

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court's 5-4 ruling in "Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission" rolled back legal restrictions on corporate spending in the electoral process, allowing unlimited corporate spending to influence elections, candidate selection, and policy decisions, thereby threatening the voices of "We the People" and the very foundation of our democracy; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black in a 1938 opinion stated, "I do not believe the word 'person' in the Fourteenth Amendment includes corporations"; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens United decision supersedes state and local efforts to regulate corporate activity in their elections;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Motion, the City of Los Angeles Hereby includes in its 2011-2012 General and State Legislative Programs SUPPORT for Legislative actions ensuring corporations are not entitled to the entirety of protections or "rights" of human beings, specifically so that the expenditure of corporate money to influence the electoral process is no longer a form of constitutionally protected speech, including a constitutional amendment based on the attached language.

Presented by Eric Garcetti, Councilmember, 13th District, and

Bill Rosendahl, Councilmember, 11th District
Seconded by Paul Krekorian, Councilmember, 2nd District, and
Richard Alarcon, Councilmember, District 7

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

Section 1 (*A corporation is not a person and can be regulated*)

The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only.

Artificial entities, such as corporations, limited liability companies, and other entities,

The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only.

Artificial entities, such as corporations, limited liability companies, and other entities, established by the laws of any State, the United States or any foreign state shall have no rights under this Constitution and are subject to regulation by the People, through Federal, State, or local law.

The privileges of artificial entities shall be determined by the People, through Federal, State, or local law, and shall not be construed to be inherent or inalienable.

Section 2 (*Money is not speech and can be regulated*) Federal, State and local government shall require that any permissible contributions and expenditures, including a candidate's own contributions and expenditures, for the purpose of influencing in any way the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure.

The judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to influence elections to be speech under the First Amendment.

Section 3
Nothing contained in this amendment shall be construed to abridge the freedom of the press.

CALLING ALL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS!

**RESTORING POWER TO THE PEOPLE
OVER CORPORATIONS AND GOVERNMENT –
STARTING WITH YOU!**

Have you noticed that our political status and economic self-determination as U.S. citizens is eroding, while corporate power and wealth is growing? Are you wondering why that's happening and what you and your neighborhood council can do about it?

In 1886 the U.S. Supreme Court declared that under the law corporations were "persons" and entitled to the protections of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution

That case laid the foundation for the steady accumulation, through court case after court case, of "human" rights for corporations; what we now call "corporate personhood," climaxing in the 2010 Supreme Court *Citizens United vs Federal Communication Commission* decision. Slowly but surely corporations accrued to themselves the rights granted to individual citizens by the 1st Amendment, the 4th Amendment, the 5th Amendment and the 14th Amendment, as well as several other specific clause-related rights in the Constitution.



