



END CORPORATE RULE. LEGALIZE DEMOCRACY.

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WELCOME!

Monthly Take Action Webinar

April 2011

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Presentation Agenda

1. Introduction to Corporate Personhood
2. Move to Amend Coalition
3. How to Get Involved
4. Q & A
5. Next Steps

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U.S. CONSTITUTION

We the People

Government

Free & Sovereign

Subordinate & Accountable

Individual Rights

Collective Duties

Private

Public

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Early Corporate Charters (1800-1870)

- ✓ Limited “life” span
- ✓ No corporation could own another corporation
- ✓ No civic donations
- ✓ Felony for corporations to give money to a campaign
- ✓ Restricted limited liability
- ✓ Could not own property outside specific needs for specific charter
- ✓ No interlocking board of directors
- ✓ Directors had to live in state where corporation did business

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Corporate Personhood, Some Examples...

***Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific Railroad* [1886]**

Though the court did not make a ruling on the question of “corporate personhood” (whether 14th Amendment covered corporations), the decision subsequently was cited as precedent to hold that a private corporation was a “natural person.” Justices have since struck down hundreds of local, state and federal laws enacted to protect people from corporate harm based on this illegitimate premise.



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Corporate Personhood, Some Examples...

Hale v. Henkel [1906]

Corporations get 4th Amendment “search and seizure” protection. Justice Harlan disagreed on this point: “...the power of the government, by its representatives, to look into the books, records and papers of a corporation of its own creation, to ascertain whether that corporation has obeyed or is defying the law, will be greatly curtailed, if not destroyed.”



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Corporate Personhood, Some Examples...

***Pennsylvania Coal Co. v. Mahon* [1922]**

Corporations get 5th Amendment “takings clause”: “...nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.” A regulation is deemed a takings.



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Corporate Personhood, Some Examples...

***Louis K. Liggett Co. v. Lee* [1933]**

The people of Florida passed a law that levied higher taxes on chain stores. The Supreme Court overturned the law citing the due process and equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment and the Interstate Commerce clause.



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Corporate Personhood, Some Examples...

Buckley v. Valeo [1976]

The Supreme Court rules that political money is equivalent to speech. This ruling expanded the First Amendment's protections to include financial contributions to candidates or parties.



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Corporate Personhood, Some Examples...

***First National Bank of Boston v. Bellotti* [1977]**

The First Amendment is used to overturn state restrictions on corporate spending on political referenda. The Court reverses its longstanding policy of denying such rights to non-media business corporations. This precedent is used, with *Buckley v. Valeo*, to thwart attempts to remove corporate money from politics.



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Corporate Personhood, Some Examples...

International Dairy Foods Association v. Amestoy [1996]

Supreme Court overturns a Vermont law requiring the labeling of all products containing bovine growth hormone. The right not to speak inheres in political and commercial speech alike and extends to statements of fact as well as statements of opinion.



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Corporate Personhood, Some Examples...

Citizens United v Federal Elections Commission [2010]

- Overturned McCain Feingold
- 24 states campaign finance laws now in jeopardy of being overturned as “Unconstitutional”
- Legalizes corporate bribery/extortion
- Most recent and blatant time the Court has explicitly offered rationale for “Corporate Constitutional Rights” (Corporate Personhood)



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When corporations can legally
claim the Constitutional rights of
a “person”...

...democracy is illegal!

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The Move to Amend Coalition

- **15+ year history** of educating and organizing against corporate power and corporate personhood.
- **Take our inspiration from past social movements** (American Revolutionaries, Abolitionists, Suffragists, Civil Rights Movement, 2nd Wave Feminism) – We're not asking our government, we're building a movement with ordinary Americans like you!
- **Commitment to a multi-racial and multi-ethnic movement**, with gender-balanced leadership, and representative of every geographical area of the country.
- **We ARE the grassroots!**

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The Move to Amend Coalition

Motion to Amend:

- ✓ Abolish Corporate Personhood
- ✓ Establish that money is not speech
- ✓ Guarantee the right to vote and to participate, and to have our votes and participation count
- ✓ Protect local communities, their economies, and democracies against control and domination by large corporations

END GOAL = Democracy in the USA!

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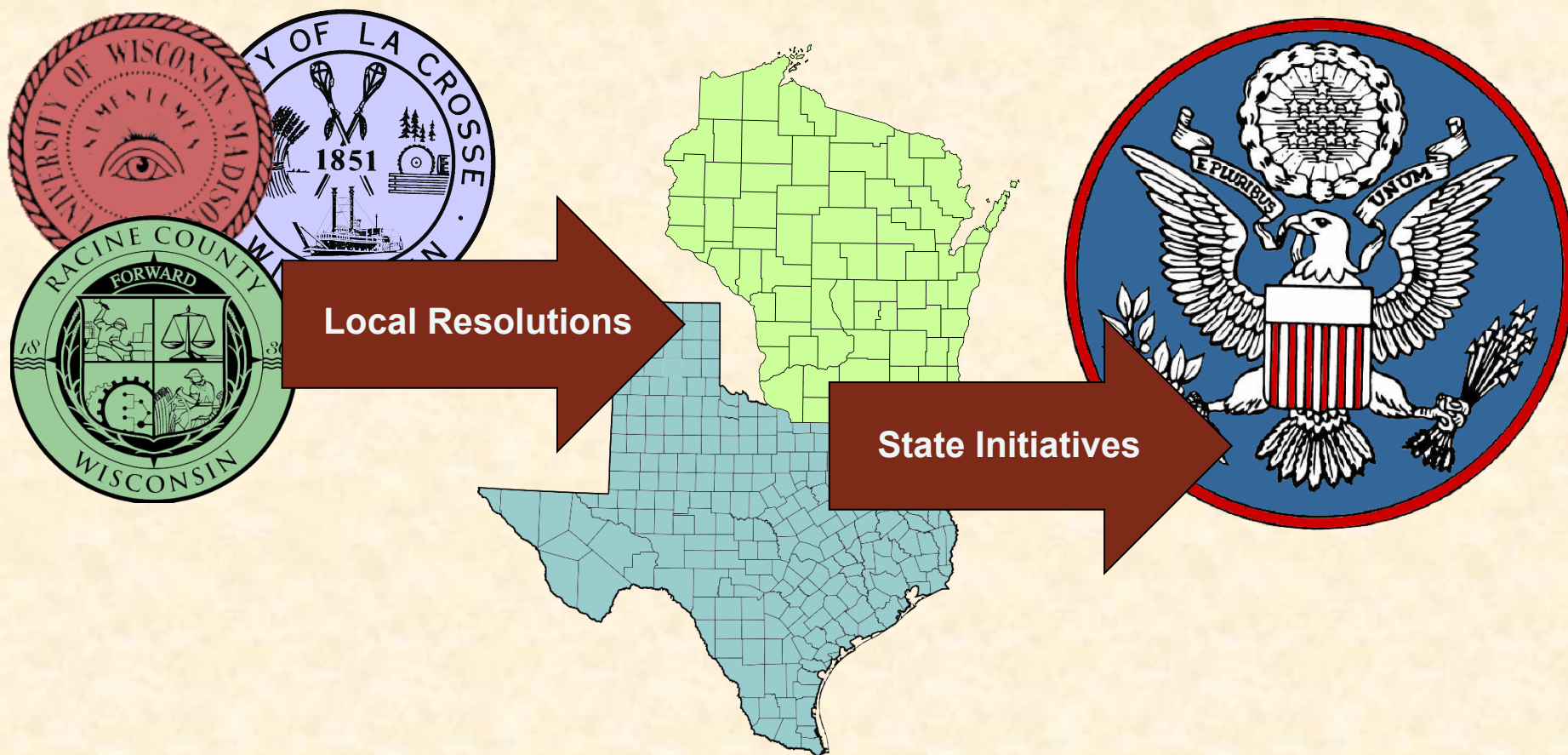


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We the People of the United States
in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do hereby adopt and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Move to Amend Organizing Strategy



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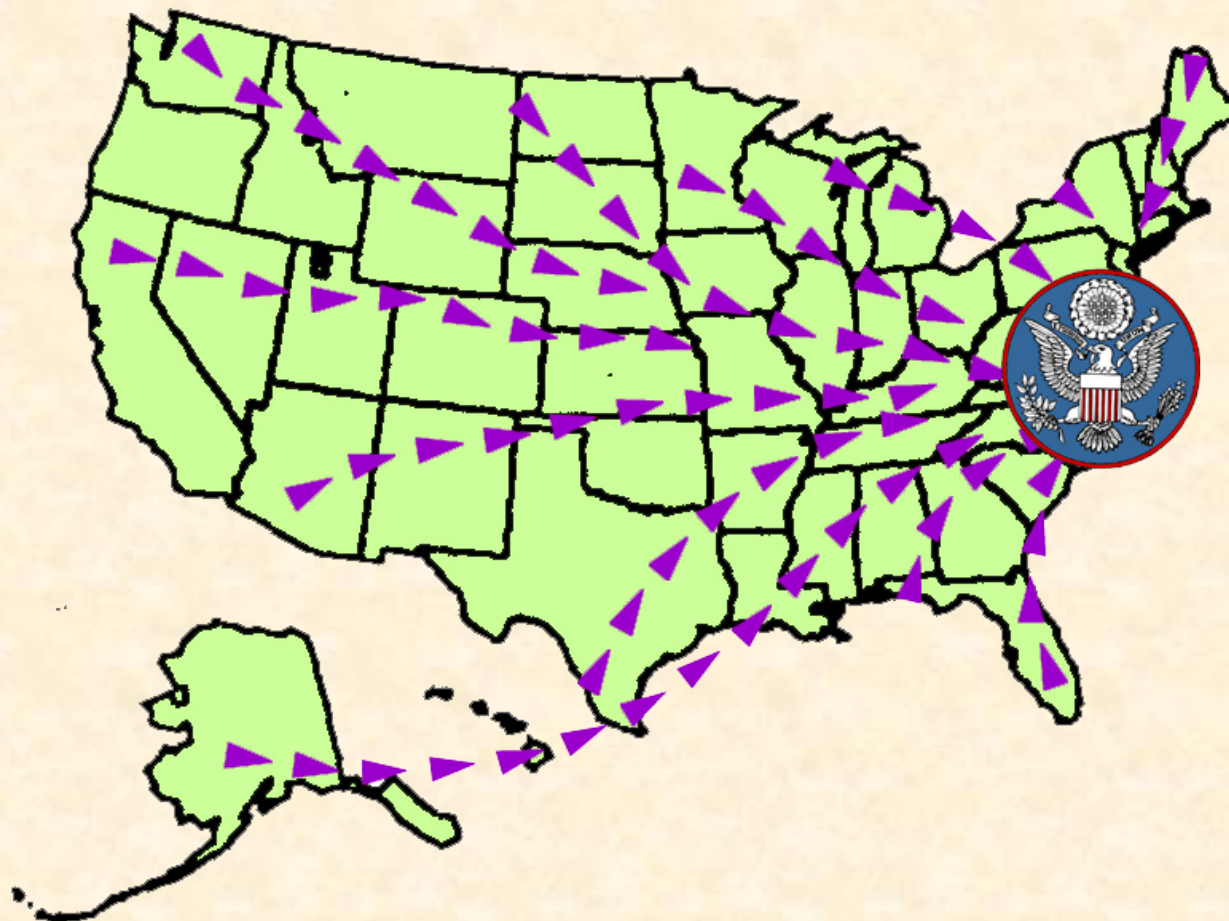


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The Move to Amend Coalition

Many groups working in response to *Citizens United* ruling. **Move to Amend is unique:**

- ✓ Abolish corporate personhood!
- ✓ Grassroots organizing strategy!
- ✓ True coalition!

For more information see: “Not All Responses to Citizens United Are the Same” -

<http://bit.ly/MTA-NotAllResponses>

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2011-2012 Agenda & Timeline Highlights

PRIMARY GOAL: Develop strong Affiliate organizations across the country who are passing MTA resolutions in their communities

- **August 20-23** ~ Move to Amend Illinois Tour (Alton, Peoria, Champaign, Chicago)
- **August 24-28** ~ Democracy Convention in Madison, WI + In-person Affiliate meeting and training (<http://democracyconvention.org>)
- **September 16/17** ~ Constitution Day Actions
- **October 6** ~ Stop the War Machine Rally in Washington DC
- **October 14-16** ~ Deep Democracy Retreat & Training in Humboldt County, CA (<http://www.duhc.org>)

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Affiliating with Move to Amend

www.MovetoAmend.org/affiliate

Our Goals for Affiliates:

- ✓ Coalition/Movement Building Emphasis
- ✓ Move to Amend name
- ✓ Growing the numbers through list sharing
- ✓ Democratic internal process
- ✓ Anti-oppression/Movement building organizing and power structure (<http://bit.ly/MTAmoveStrength>)
- ✓ Network and growth toward State Chapters

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Community Resolutions

- Number one goal for Move to Amend in 2011!
- Remember the Declaration of Independence...
- Opportunity to build your Affiliate Organization
- Educate and mobilize the public
- Connect to local examples
- Non-binding, no threat of lawsuit but requires elected officials and the public to take a position

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Community Resolutions

- **Lots of options:**

- ✓ *Organizations* (Labor Unions/Councils, Political Parties, Activist Groups, Community Organizations, Churches, etc.)
- ✓ *Colleges & Universities* (Student Government, Faculty Senate, Board of Trustees, Campus-Wide Vote)
- ✓ *Local Government* (City, Village, County Boards)
- ✓ *Local Ballot Initiatives* (Direct vote)

- **Coming later (not yet):**

- ✓ *State Legislators*
- ✓ *State Ballot Initiatives*

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Next Steps...

- **Take Action Webinar** on the first Tuesday of the month
- **Join us at the Democracy Convention** in Madison, WI – August 24-28, 2011 – and tell your friends!
(<http://democracyconvention.org>)
- **Contact Move to Amend** if you have any questions:
→ info@MoveToAmend.org or (707) 269-0984

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