



NEWS RELEASE

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Voters Overwhelmingly Endorse Initiative 166 *Say Corporate Money Should be Out of Our Elections Montanans to Stand Against Big Money in Elections*

HELENA — Montana voters strongly endorsed I-166, the *Prohibition on Corporate Contributions and Expenditures in Montana Elections Act*, by a margin of three-to-one giving the citizen initiative a vote of 75 percent.

“This election has been unprecedented for big money and secret money; Montanans, and our country, need to stand together to address the problem of corporate money in our elections,” said C.B. Pearson, treasurer for I-166 and a long-time Montana campaign reform advocate. “With this vote, Montanans have provided much needed leadership on this important issue, much as we did 100 years ago with the passage of the Corrupt Practices Act. Montana experienced firsthand abusive, corrupt corporations trying to run the business of this state, and now we face a potential new era of corruption. That is why passing I-166 is so important.”

“With this initiative, Montanans are calling on every elected official in Montana to fight for fair elections and fight to overturn the horrible *Citizen United* decision with a constitutional amendment that says ‘Corporations Aren’t People and Money is not Speech.’” said Pearson. “The fight for fair elections free of the corrupting influence of big money is just beginning. All Montanans need to work together to clean up our elections, end the big money scandal, and address the problem of secret money.”

I-166 received bipartisan support from prominent Montana political figures. Governor Brian Schweitzer (D), Lt. Governor John Bohlinger (R), and former Secretary of State Verner Bertelsen (R) were the first to sign the petition to place I-166 on the ballot and came together to author the argument for I-166 in the Voter Information Pamphlet.

Paid for by Stand with Montanans:
Corporations Aren't People – Ban Corporate Campaign Spending
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"We need to get the dirty, secret, corporate, foreign money out of our elections," said Governor Brian Schweitzer. "Just as we did over 100 years ago, Montanans stood-up and took the first step, sending a clear message to the nation that corporations are not people and money does not equal speech. Now it's up to Congress to pass a constitutional amendment to get the dirty, secret, corporate, foreign money out of our elections for good."

Supporters of I-166 believe that the strong passage of the measure in Montana will have a ripple effect throughout the country, and will ultimately lead to the overturning of the *Citizens United* decision.

"Montana's rebellion against corporate money in politics has sparked a fire that has already spread to many states and will soon be spreading to many more," said Derek Cressman, Vice President of State Operations for Common Cause, a good government group and one of the lead supporters of the Stand with Montanans campaign in partnership with Free Speech for People. "We are already getting inquiries from leaders in other states who want to launch similar initiatives in 2014 to keep pushing back against the court's big mistake in *Citizens United*," he added.

"Montanans voting for I-166 in such strong numbers reflects how important it is to Americans everywhere that we overrule the U.S. Supreme Court and overturn *Citizens United* with a constitutional amendment, and the fact that it happened in Montana shows the geographic sweep and trans-partisan depth of this growing national movement," said Peter Schurman, Campaign Director of Free Speech For People, a national non-profit organization founded the day of the *Citizens United* decision that leads and catalyzes the national movement for a constitutional amendment to overturn it and to rein in unchecked corporate power.

With this historic vote Montana voters became one of the first two states where voters have gone on record calling for a constitutional amendment to overturn the *Citizen United* decision.

More information is available at www.StandWithMontanans.org, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/StandWithMontanans, on Twitter, @STANDwMONTANANS, and by calling (406) 356-NOV6 (6686).