



“Get Big Money out of Politics and Overturn *Citizens United*”

Proposition 49 directs California’s congressional delegation to support a constitutional amendment to reverse the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*. Vote YES on 49 if you want to reduce the influence of billionaires on our elections and correct misguided Supreme Court rulings that have granted constitutional rights to corporations.

Our Elections Are Up for Sale

In 9 out of 10 congressional elections, the candidate who spends the most money wins. The dominance of big money from a wealthy few is getting worse thanks to controversial rulings by five members of the Supreme Court that have said that corporations deserve the same constitutional rights that real people do and that billionaires can give SuperPACs unlimited amounts of money as a protected form of “free speech.” Insurance companies, oil corporations and pharmaceutical firms have grown to dominate California’s elections too, especially our ballot initiatives.

A Constitutional Amendment CAN Get Big Money out of Politics

We can correct the errors of the Roberts Court by passing an amendment to the U.S. Constitution clarifying that corporations are not entitled to the constitutional rights of real people and authorizing limits on campaign contributions and spending that promote a level playing field and ensure that all citizens, regardless of wealth, have an opportunity to speak. Seven of our 27 amendments to the Constitution have corrected previous overreaches by the Supreme Court and the time has come for us to do so again.

*“Shall the Congress of the United States propose, and the California legislature ratify, an **amendment** or amendments to the United States Constitution to **overturn Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2010) 558 U.S. 310**, and other applicable judicial precedents, to allow the full regulation or limitation of campaign contributions and spending, to ensure that all citizens, regardless of wealth, may express their views to one another, and to make clear that the rights protected by the United States Constitution are the rights of natural persons only?”* [Complete text of Prop. 49]

The Constitution is for Real People

Corporations do not breathe. They don’t give birth, go to war, or pledge allegiance to our flag. Corporations should stick to the reasons they were established -- to engage in valuable economic activity. CEO’s should not use the privileges we have granted corporations to spend their shareholders’

and customers' money on political or religious agendas they may not agree with.

It's Time to Limit Campaign Contributions and Spending

The Supreme Court got it wrong when it ruled that unlimited spending on political campaigns is a form of free speech. By striking down equitable limits on campaign spending, the Court has allowed the voices of a few wealthy interests to speak louder than the rest of us.

The Roberts Court is not done

In June, that five member majority (all men) crossed over a line and stepped into what Justice Ginsburg, in her *Hobby Lobby* dissent, called a "minefield," ascribing the right of "religious freedom" to a corporation.

Certainly, the continued battering of women's reproductive rights, allowing her employer, a for profit corporation to refuse to provide certain kinds of contraceptive care on the

grounds that to do so would violate the corporation's right to religious freedom is a deeply troubling result, but the precedent it sets is worse. Also this year, the Court struck down a limit of \$123,200 in combined contributions to federal candidates in the *McCutcheon* decision. It is high time that "We The People" use the checks and balances in our Constitution to rein in a runaway Supreme Court.



California has a Chance to Speak Up!

Proposition 49 is part of a growing national movement that is demanding real reform now. Voters in Montana and Colorado approved similar measures in 2012 by margins of three-to-one as have voters in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Richmond California. Legislatures in 15 other states have passed resolutions to overturn *Citizens United*. Now, we have a chance to elevate the debate to a national level with a statewide measure in California. Prop 49 is the best way to make our voice heard!

A proud American Tradition

Proposition 49 follows a tradition of constituent instructions used during the Founding Period of the United States when constituent instructions were considered politically binding. Two U.S. Senators who would later become U.S. Presidents resigned their seats in the Senate rather than defying constituent instructions similar to those in Prop 49. The California Legislature referred an "advise and instruct" measure similar to Prop 49 in 1892-- a move that eventually pressed Congress to approve the 17th Amendment to directly elect U.S. Senators.

Our Covenant to Hold Congress Accountable

The Yes on 49 Money Out Voters In is asking every candidate for Congress to agree to a Covenant with voters, promising that they will abide by the directive of Prop 49 if it passes in their district. Voters are taking pledges not to support any candidate who won't agree to represent the wishes of a majority of their constituents on this critical issue facing our country.