

A RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF ELECTIONS AND SECURE RIGHTS OF ALL
AMERICANS TO EQUAL REPRESENTATION BY ENABLING REASONABLE LIMITS ON
ELECTION CONTRIBUTIONS AND SPENDING

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 18, 2019

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County is committed to the principles that all people are created equal, born with certain unalienable rights, including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution is intended to protect these unalienable rights of human beings and to enable effective self-government by a free people; and

WHEREAS, our state and federal Constitutions and system of government are founded on the principle of equal citizenship, and reject the allocation of political power based on wealth; and

WHEREAS, effective, even-handed and reasonable limits on the role of money used to influence outcomes of elections are necessary to (1) secure the rights of all of the citizens of our state to be represented and participate in elections and self-government, regardless of wealth; and (2) protect the integrity of elections and government against foreign interests and undue influence of concentrated economic capital, whether of corporations, unions or other entities; among other purposes; and

WHEREAS, several rulings of the Supreme Court have erroneously changed the meaning of the First Amendment, without consultation of the States or the people, so as to empower unlimited political spending with “free speech” protections. The Court issued these rulings without due regard for the political equality of every American, the risk of systemic corruption, the interest in self-governance in the states, free from undue influence of concentrated wealth from outside of the state; and

WHEREAS, as a result, federal and state courts have been compelled by this Supreme Court doctrine to invalidate longstanding state and federal anti-corruption and election spending laws; and

WHEREAS, restricting the ability of Congress and the States to impose legal limits on political contributions and spending allows wealthy individuals, corporations, unions, and other entities to unduly influence elections, candidate selection, and policy decisions, and drowns out the voices of ordinary citizens; and

WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution empowers and obligates the people and States of the United States of America to use the Constitutional amendment process to protect and defend the Constitution and secure our liberties.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby call upon the United States Congress to propose and send to the states for ratification a Constitutional amendment to make clear that the States have the power to regulate and set reasonable limits on election contributions and expenditures in state and local elections, and Congress likewise has such power in federal elections, in order to protect the integrity of such elections and self-government and secure the equal rights of all Americans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and submitted to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, and to each member of our Washtenaw County Congressional Representatives, including Senator Gary Peters, Senator Debbie Stabenow, Congressman Walberg, and Congresswoman Dingell.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to our Washtenaw County State Legislative Delegation and that we ask our Delegation to support the ratification of such a constitutional amendment

COMMISSIONER	Y	N	A	COMMISSIONER	Y	N	A	COMMISSIONER	Y	N	A
Beeman	X			LaBarre	X			Shink	X		
Brabec	X			Maciejewski	X						
Jamnack	X			Morgan	X						
Jefferson	X			Scott	X						

CLERK/REGISTER'S CERTIFICATE - CERTIFIED COPY

ROLL CALL VOTE:

9 0 0

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

I, Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register of said County of Washtenaw and Clerk of Circuit Court for said County, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners at a session held at the County Administration Building in the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, on September 18th, 2019, as it appears of record in my office.

COUNTY OF WASHTENAW)^{SS}.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court at Ann Arbor, this 19th day of September, 2019.

LAWRENCE KESTENBAUM, Clerk/Register

BY: _____ Deputy Clerk



Res. No. 19-166