

Constitutional Amendments – Summaries

1. People, person or persons used in the Constitution does not include corporations, limited liability companies or other corporate entities. They are subject to regulations determined by Congress and the state legislatures. Rights protected by the Constitution are the rights of natural persons.

-- FreeSpeechforPeople.org and Rep. McGovern

2. Nothing in the Constitution shall prohibit Congress and the States from regulating or restricting the expenditure of funds or contributions for political activity by corporations, limited liability companies or other corporate entities. Shall not abridge freedom of the press.

-- Rep. Edwards and Conyers

3. Rights protected by the Constitution are rights of natural persons only. Corporations, limited liability companies, and other entities established by the States or foreign states shall have no rights under the Constitution and are subject to regulation, limits, or prohibition by Federal and State law. Allowed contributions and expenditures must be disclosed. The judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to influence election to be speech. Shall not abridge freedom of the press.

--Move to Amend.org

4. Congress and the States shall have the power to regulate the raising and spending of money for elections, to limit the amount of contributions to the candidates for Federal or State offices, and to limit the expenditures in support of or in opposition to such candidates. Congress shall have the power to implement and enforce this article.

--Sen. Udall, Bennet, Harkin, Durbin, Schumer, Merkley, and
Whitehouse

5. Similar to the above regarding Congress and the States regulating and limiting contributions and expenditures by corporations. Also corporations are prohibited from making contributions and expenditures regarding the vote on any ballot question. Congress and the States shall have the power to authorize the establishment of political committee to receive, spend and disclose the sources of their contributions. For-profit corporations are not to be treated as persons, but non-profit corporations may continue to assert the claim of constitutional rights equal to people.

--Rep. Deutch

6. Similar to the above regarding Congress and the States' power to prohibit, limit and otherwise regulate corporate contributions and expenditures in elections but with the addition of power to regulate the expenditure of funds or in-kind equivalents to purchase media advertisements intended to influence the outcome of an election or a plebiscite in a State. Prohibits foreigners and foreign corporations from making contributions to influence an election.

--Rep. Schrader and DeFazio

7. Similar to #5.

--Sen. Sanders

Other Legislation in Congress

A bill filed by Rep. Niki Tsongas stating that no Federal funds may be used for lobbying or to support or oppose any candidate for office

Local Resolutions

Massachusetts legislature

S. 772 Resolution – Calls on Congress to pass a constitutional amendment to restore the First Amendment and fair elections to the people.

--Sen. Eldridge, Rep. Atkins and other legislators

Massachusetts cities and towns

Similar resolutions passed by Lanesborough, Williamstown, Wellfleet, Truro and others

2012Concord Town Meeting warrant article #48

Now therefore be it resolved that we the people of Concord, Massachusetts call upon the Congress of the United States to pass and send to the states for ratification a Constitutional Amendment to reverse the decision of the United States Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, to declare that corporations are not “persons” under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, and to restore to the people their right to regulate the expenditures of corporations to ensure fair elections.