

Resolution No. 31380

A RESOLUTION supporting a United States Constitutional Amendment to Regulate Corporate Political Spending and Campaign Financing.

The City of Seattle - Legislative Department

Resolution sponsored by: Richard Conlin

Committee Action

Date	Recommendation	Vote
		<u>Sam V. Lewis</u>

Related Legislation File: _____

Date Introduced and Referred: <u>5.7.12</u>	To: (committee): <u>Full Council</u>
Date Re-referred:	To: (committee):
Date Re-referred:	To: (committee):
Date of Final Action: <u>5-14-2012</u>	Date Presented to Mayor: _____
Date Signed by Mayor: _____	Date Returned to City Clerk: <u>5-14-2012</u>
Published by Title Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Date Returned Without Concurrence:
Published in Full Text _____	

This file is complete and ready for presentation to Full Council. _____

Full Council Action:

Date	Decision	Vote
<u>May 14, 2012</u>	<u>Adopted</u>	<u>8-0 (excused: Godden)</u>

RESOLUTION 31380

1 A RESOLUTION supporting a United States Constitutional Amendment to Regulate Corporate
2 Political Spending and Campaign Financing.

3 WHEREAS, Seattle has a history of proven commitment to clean elections, transparency in
4 election financing and lobbying, and maintains a national model of election oversight
5 through the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commissions; and

6 WHEREAS, in a 2010 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, *Citizens United v. the Federal*
7 *Election Commission*, the Supreme Court overturned some provisions of the federal
8 Campaign Reform Act enacted in 2002, and ruled that corporate entities have the same
rights as persons to unrestricted spending on political speech; and

9 WHEREAS, in reaching its decision, a majority of the Supreme Court interpreted the First
10 Amendment of the Constitution to afford corporations the same free speech protections as
natural persons; and

11 WHEREAS, the Court's decision in effect allows unlimited corporate spending to influence
12 campaigns, elections, lawmaking and public policy decisions; and

13 WHEREAS, in the two years since the ruling, there has been tremendous growth in contributions
14 and spending by super political action committees for media ads and related independent
electioneering activities; and

15 WHEREAS, the Court's decision in the case of *Citizens United v. F.E.C.* severely restricts the
16 ability of federal, state and local governments like Seattle to enact reasonable campaign
17 finance reforms and regulations regarding corporate political activity; and;

18 WHEREAS, several proposed amendments to the Constitution have recently been introduced in
19 Congress that would allow governments to regulate the raising and spending of money by
corporations to influence elections; and;

20 WHEREAS, the people of the United States have previously used the constitutional amendment
21 process to correct decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court that are widely deemed to be
22 egregious or wrongly decided or significantly out-of-step with the prevailing values of
the populace; NOW, THEREFORE,

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THAT:**

2 Section 1. The City of Seattle calls on the the United States Congress to initiate steps to
3 amend the United States Constitution with provisions that clearly state that:

- 4 (1) Corporations are not human beings, and only human beings are endowed with
5 Constitutional rights.
6 (2) Contributions and expenditures for political purposes are not Constitutionally-protected
7 speech, and that, therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent
8 to limiting political speech.
9 (3) Congress and the States shall have the power to regulate contributions and expenditures
10 for campaigns and ballot measures, and to require public disclosure of the sources of such
11 contributions and expenditures.

12 Adopted by the City Council the 14th day of May, 2012, and
13 signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 14th day
14 of May, 2012.



15 President _____ of the City Council

16
17 Filed by me this 14th day of May, 2012.



20 For Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

21
22 (Seal)

FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	CBO Analyst/Phone:
Legislative	Ben Noble / 4-81601	N/A

Legislation Title:

A RESOLUTION supporting a United States Constitutional Amendment to Regulate Corporate Political Spending and Campaign Financing

Summary of the Legislation:

This resolution requests that Washington State Legislature and the United States Congress to initiate steps to amend the United States Constitution with provisions that would give Congress and the States the power to regulate contributions and expenditures for campaigns and ballot measures, and to require public disclosure of the sources of such contributions and expenditures.

Background:

The U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling in the "Citizens United" case has significantly limited government's ability to regulate campaign contributions and to require disclosure of how much specific individuals or organizations are contributing to political campaigns.

Please check one of the following:

This legislation does not have any financial implications.

(Please skip to "Other Implications" section at the end of the document and answer questions a-h. Earlier sections that are left blank should be deleted. Please delete the instructions provided in parentheses at the end of each question.)

Other Implications:

a) **Does the legislation have indirect financial implications, or long-term implications?**

No.

b) **What is the financial cost of not implementing the legislation?**

No direct costs.

c) **Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**

No.

d) **What are the possible alternatives to the legislation that could achieve the same or similar objectives?**

A formal letter to the City's Olympia delegation and the State's Federal Delegation could

serve some of the same purpose.

e) Is a public hearing required for this legislation?

No.

f) Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?

No.

g) Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

No.

h) Other Issues:

None.

STATE OF WASHINGTON – KING COUNTY

--SS.

284671
CITY OF SEATTLE, CLERKS OFFICE

No. 31365,31370,31380

Affidavit of Publication

The undersigned, on oath states that he is an authorized representative of The Daily Journal of Commerce, a daily newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continuously as a daily newspaper in Seattle, King County, Washington, and it is now and during all of said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of this newspaper. The Daily Journal of Commerce was on the 12th day of June, 1941, approved as a legal newspaper by the Superior Court of King County.

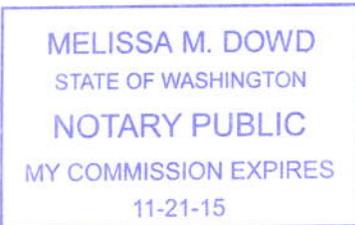
The notice in the exact form annexed, was published in regular issues of The Daily Journal of Commerce, which was regularly distributed to its subscribers during the below stated period. The annexed notice, a

CT: TITLE ONLY RESOLUTION

was published on

05/30/12

The amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is the sum of \$ 41.85, which amount has been paid in full.



[Handwritten Signature]

Subscribed and sworn to before me on

05/30/12

[Handwritten Signature]

Notary public for the State of Washington,
residing in Seattle

Affidavit of Publication

State of Washington, King County

City of Seattle Title Only Resolutions

The full text of the following legislation, passed by the City Council on May 14, 2012, and published below by title only, will be mailed upon request, or can be accessed at <http://clerk.seattle.gov>. For information on upcoming meetings of the Seattle City Council, please visit <http://www.seattle.gov/council/calendar>.

Contact: Office of the City Clerk at (206) 684-8344.

RESOLUTION NO. 31365

A RESOLUTION endorsing the City Light Department's Wholesale Energy Risk Management Policy; establishing it as the policy governing wholesale energy risk management at the City Light Department; and superseding Resolution 31230.

RESOLUTION NO. 31370

A RESOLUTION identifying principles and a revised schedule to guide the review and update of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

RESOLUTION NO. 31380

A RESOLUTION supporting a United States Constitutional Amendment to Regulate Corporate Political Spending and Campaign Financing.

Date of publication in the Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce, May 30, 2012.

5/30(284671)