



Oregon Democracy Coalition

We are a growing network of organizations acting locally in Oregon to amend the U.S. Constitution to establish that:

- **Money is not speech and can be regulated, AND**
- **Corporations are not persons. Only human beings are persons with constitutional rights.**

Why amend?

The Supreme Court has granted corporations and wealthy individuals excessive influence in elections by declaring that money is speech.

The Court has also granted corporations constitutional rights, allowing them to evade oversight by the People, regardless of the public interest.

The only way to overrule the Supreme Court is through a constitutional amendment.

Corporate “Rights” vs. Responsibilities

Corporations do not need constitutional rights to operate as businesses, unions or nonprofits. Such artificial entities have state-granted privileges that should come with responsibilities, not “rights.”

Problems with corporate “rights”

Claiming corporations have constitutional rights under the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 14th Amendments, courts have granted them the ability to:

- Spend unlimited amounts of money from their treasuries to influence elections and ballot measures
- Prevent regulatory inspections
- Conceal from the public information that could protect consumers and public health

- Market harmful products to children
- Pollute land, water and the air without accountability
- Move into communities in spite of local laws meant to keep them out



What we have done so far:

In 2012, our efforts succeeded at getting a dozen Oregon communities – from Portland to Ashland and Baker City to Port Orford – all on record calling for a constitutional amendment. Oregonians passed city council resolutions and local ballot measures, advising Oregon’s congressional delegation to act. Then, in 2013, we convinced the Oregon Legislature to pass a similar resolution, HJM 6.

National progress:

16 states have passed resolutions calling for an amendment. Several were by initiatives passed by 70-80% of voters.

Dozens of resolutions have passed by initiative and referral in cities around the country, generally by similar margins.

More than 500 cities and counties have passed municipal resolutions in favor of an amendment. This includes large cities (NYC and LA), medium cities (Portland, OR) and small cities (Baker City, OR).

What’s next:

The Oregon Democracy Coalition (ODC) is organizing locally around the state to advance a constitutional amendment in coordination with other national efforts.

ODC collectively is focused on two priorities. First, we are organizing teams in each congressional district to hold our congressional representatives accountable through a variety of strategies, including meetings with representatives, and an ***Ask the Candidate*** campaign that raises this issue at town halls and campaign meetings. Second, we’re expanding our coalition, working with allies to highlight the relevance of this issue as a major barrier to solutions for health care, jobs, climate change, peace and more.

Individual member organizations are pursuing a range of strategies. ***Move to Amend*** is taking the lead to put a ballot measure on the 2016 Oregon ballot. ***Common Cause*** is working on bills in Congress that move a constitutional amendment forward. ***Main Street Alliance*** is raising the issue among small business owners across the state.

Members of ODC include:

Alliance for Democracy
Common Cause Oregon
Coos Curry Democracy Coalition
Main Street Alliance
Move to Amend (8 affiliates)
Oregon Peaceworks
Rural Organizing Project
SEIU Local 503
Tax Fairness Oregon

For a complete list of member organizations, please see our website:

www.oregondemocracycoalition.org

Now It's Up to You to Join On!

For more information, to sign on as an amend volunteer, or to arrange that your organization join the coalition, go to the ODC website:

www.oregondemocracycoalition.org

Individuals will be contacted by an organizer in their district who can plug them into their local amendment network or help them start their own groups.



For more information, please contact:

David Delk at (503) 232-5495

davidafd@ymail.com

Bill Harris at (503) 228-3448 bbharris1936@gmail.com

Josie Koehne at (503) 866-3346 Josephine.koehne@gmail.com