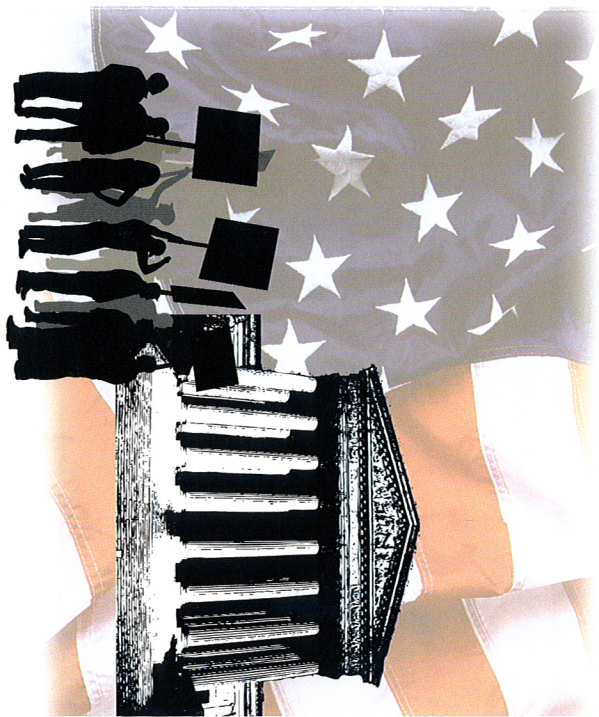


120402

A CALL TO ACTION

ORGANIZING OUR COMMUNITIES TO

OVERRULE THE COURT



We Move to Amend

We, the People of the United States of America, reject the U.S. Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling, and move to amend our Constitution to firmly establish that money is not speech, and that human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights.

Join the movement to amend by signing the petition online!

Proposed 28th Amendment

Section 1 [A corporation is not a person]

The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only.

Artificial entities, such as corporations, limited liability companies, and other entities, established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state shall have no rights under this Constitution and are subject to regulation by the People, through Federal, State, or local law.

The privileges of artificial entities shall be determined by the People, through Federal, State, or local law, and shall not be construed to be inherent or inalienable.

Section 2 [Money is not speech and can be regulated]

Federal, State and local government shall regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures, including a candidate's own contributions and expenditures, for the purpose of influencing in any way the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure.

Federal, State and local government shall require that any permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed.

The judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to influence elections to be speech under the First Amendment.

Section 3

Nothing contained in this amendment shall be construed to abridge the freedom of the press.

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"The liberty of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerate the growth of a private power to the point where it becomes stronger than their democratic state itself. That, in essence, is fascism."

—Franklin Delano Roosevelt



"[Judges] created corporations as persons, gave birth to corporations as persons. There could be an argument made that that was the court's error to start with... [imbuing] a creature of state law with human characteristics."

—Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor



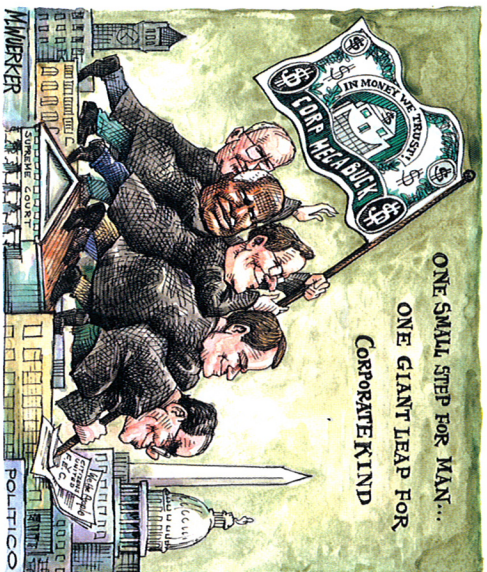
What is Corporate Personhood?

Corporate Personhood refers to court-created precedent that gives corporations constitutional rights intended solely for human beings. How did this happen?

U.S. law recognizes corporations as “artificial persons” for limited purposes to conduct business. After the American Revolution, people were wary of corporations seizing power. So people limited corporate power through their state legislatures. As time passed, state legislatures, then courts, began to blur the distinction between real people and artificial persons.

The concept of corporate personhood was first introduced in 1886 through the U.S. Supreme Court, almost 100 years after the Constitution was ratified. The Founders never intended corporations to be able to claim constitutional rights.

Since 1886, courts have handed out more human rights to corporations. Armed with human rights and legal privileges, large corporations have amassed fantastic wealth and power, which has undermined our sovereign self-governance and created a democracy crisis.



How does Citizens United affect democracy?

In *Citizens United v. FEC*, the U.S. Supreme Court sided with the wealthy elite against the interests of the American people. Corporations can now spend unlimited money to buy our elections. The Court has legalized corporate bribery of our elected officials.

Once again, the Court relied on the illegitimate doctrine of Corporate Personhood in order to justify this profoundly undemocratic decision. If you were already disgusted by the fact that over \$5 billion dollars was spent in the 2008 election, watch out. The floodgates are now wide open!

Corporate Personhood is not an inconsequential legal technicality. Literally hundreds — perhaps thousands — of local, state and federal laws that attempt to protect our elections, safety and health, environment, and right to organize have been overturned as a result of this erroneous doctrine.

What can we do?

It's time to take ourselves seriously – about what is at stake and what it will require to assume and democratically exercise real power. We must address the reality that the courts have made real democracy illegal.

It's time to follow the lead of the American Revolutionaries, the Abolitionists, the Suffragists, the Trade Unionists, and the Civil Rights activists and to build a broad-based, multi-partisan democracy movement in the United States. ***It's time to change the rules.***

Start by creating awareness:

- Form a study group.
- Organize a workshop or street theater event and invite a speaker from our campaign.
- Pass out brochures at public events.
- Write a letter to the editor or an op-ed in your local paper.
- Propose a local resolution or ordinance to eliminate Corporate Personhood.
- Ask elected officials and political candidates to take a public stand against Corporate Personhood.
- Sign the Move to Amend petition.

Move to Amend's Take Action Toolkit provides tools for you to get started at www.MoveToAmend.org/toolkit.

