

# Cosponsor H.J.Res.48, the We the People Amendment

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Request for Cosponsor(s)

**117th Cosponsors (94):** Adams, Barragán\*, Bass, Bera, Beyer\*, Blumenauer\*, Bonamici\*, Boyle\*, Bush\*, Carbajal\*, Cartwright\*, Castro, Chu\*, Cicilline\*, Clarke, Craig\*, Cárdenas, Davis (IL)\*, DeFazio\*, DeLauro, DeSaulnier, DelBene\*, Doggett, Eschoo\*, Español\*, Evans, Garamendi, García (IL)\*, Grijalva\*, Higgins\*, Huffman\*, Jackson Lee, Johnson (GA)\*, Jones, Kaptur\*, Keating, Khanna\*, Kilmer\*, Kirkpatrick, Kuster\*, Langevin, Lawson, Lee (CA)\*, Leger Fernandez, Levin, Lieu, Lofgren, Lowenthal, Lynch\*, Manning\*, Matsui\*, McCollum\*, McGovern\*, McNeerney\*, Meng, Moore, Moulton\*, Nadler, Napolitano\*, Neguse, Newman\* , Norton\*, Ocasio-Cortez, Omar\*, Panetta, Perlmutter\*, Peters, Phillips\*, Pingree\*, Pocan\*, Porter, Pressley\*, Raskin, Ryan\*, Sanchez\*, Schakowsky, Schiff, Schrier, Sewell, Smith, Speier, Swalwell, Takano\*, Thompson (CA)\*, Titus, Tlaib\*, Tonko\*, Trahan\*, Vargas, Velazquez, Waters, Welch\*, Williams

\*Original Cosponsor

Dear Colleague:

Most Americans believe our political system is broken. Polling data consistently demonstrates that Americans believe that money is corrupting our political process, and that large corporations are exercising far too much power in society. This belief is shared among Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. In these polarized times, it is one of the few policy areas where Americans across the political spectrum find genuine consensus. I invite you to become an original cosponsor of the “We the People” Amendment, to ensure that the rights of the Constitution are granted only to natural persons, not large corporations.

The United States is supposed to operate as a democratic Republic: Where “We the People” are sovereign, and where elected representatives cannot pass laws that violate the inherent and inalienable rights protected by our Constitution.

The legal doctrines of “money equals political speech” and “corporate constitutional rights” were created and upheld by the Supreme Court decisions [Buckley v. Valeo](#) and [Citizens United v. FEC](#). However, the questions of how to best protect the integrity of elections and the proper role of the corporation in society are intrinsically political, and, according to our system of government, should be addressed by elected representatives at the local, state, and federal level. When the Court illegitimately turns a political question into a Constitutional one, they transform “We the People” from active, sovereign participants into mere spectators.

In the election cycle immediately following the 2010 Citizen’s United decision, independent spending [increased over 600%](#) compared to the election cycle before the decision, and has continued to grow since then. The November 2020 election saw spending reach an unparalleled \$14 billion, [over double that of the 2016 election cycle](#). The Center for Responsive Politics has reported a shift to large donation strategies since the 2010 Citizen’s United ruling: the top 10 donors contributing over \$640 million, mostly to independent PACs unbound by spending caps. In a time when questioning our institutions is critical to the political process, what does not need to be questioned is the role corporations and corporate dollars are playing in what should be free and fair elections.

The Founders designed the Constitution to protect and ensure the rights of the American people, not American commerce. I ask you to join me in an effort to return our government to this framework by co-sponsoring the “We the People” Amendment to amend the U.S. Constitution to make it clear that only natural persons possess inherent inalienable constitutional rights and that the expenditure of money in political campaigns is not protected “speech.”

This approach has the overwhelming support of the American people. Over 80% of Americans support this approach when surveyed. Over 700 jurisdictions at the local and county level have passed Resolutions in support of abolishing these doctrines. Even more telling is that the issue has been won at the ballot box in over 350 communities, as well as four statewide initiatives. And these referendums have won everywhere – rural, suburban, and urban communities. It has also won in areas considered conservative, liberal and moderate.

For questions or to cosponsor the “We the People” Amendment, please contact Elise Phillips at [elise.phillips@mail.house.gov](mailto:elise.phillips@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

PRAMILA JAYAPAL  
Member of Congress

## Related Legislative Issues

**Selected legislative information:** Elections, Finance, Judiciary

## Related Bill Information

**Bill Type:** H.J.Res.  
**Bill Type:** 48  
**Special Note:**

