

RESOLUTION

**NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY
March 2012 Statewide Precinct Meeting**

Urge the NCDP to RESOLVE that Corporations are Not People; and Money Is Not Speech.

Introduced by: _____ Precinct _____

WHEREAS, On January 10, 2010, in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, a bitterly divided Supreme Court overturned a century of established precedent by ruling that corporate spending on candidate elections cannot be limited under the First Amendment. In so doing, Justices Roberts, Scalia, Thomas, Alito, and Kennedy effectively declared that corporations – legal entities defined by, and subject to, the laws of individual states – are indistinguishable from people with respect to federal law and the US Constitution. The decision likewise obliterates the common-sense distinction between corporate money and constitutionally protected free speech.

WHEREAS, although some corporations make important contributions to our society, they are required by law to put profit ahead of any other concern, can exist simultaneously in many nations, and use court granted "corporate rights" to get laws that threaten corporate profits weakened or overturned, even when those laws protect people and communities; and

WHEREAS, our community considers it to be our right and duty to assert that corporations are not natural persons with human rights but artificial entities created by our government; and

WHEREAS, a Washington Post-ABC News poll found that 80% of Americans oppose the Citizens United ruling (Democrats 85%, Republicans 76%, Independents 81%) and a Harris poll found that 87% think big companies have too much influence in Washington; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Patrick Leahy stated that the Citizens United ruling "will allow major corporations . . . to control America;" and former Republican senator Warren Rudman wrote, "Supreme Court opinion notwithstanding, corporations are not defined as people under the Constitution, and free speech can hardly be called free when only the rich are heard;" and Senator Chris Dodd pointed out that "money is not speech," that "corporations are not people" and that "a constitutional amendment is necessary to fully restore the trust and voice of the America people."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we affirm the need and support the effort to amend the US Constitution to reclaim our democracy from the corrupting effects of undue corporate influence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we proclaim that only human beings, not corporations, are entitled to constitutional rights; and money is not speech; and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

Affirmed by: _____, Precinct _____, New Hanover County _____ Date