



Corvallis Area Move to Amend Basic Points

- **Big money in politics fosters corruption.** Fair and open elections are essential to democracy, but unlimited and unregulated spending on election campaigns and lobbying increases candidates' dependence on large donors that foster corruption, giving the largest donors far more influence on the actions of the United States government than the average citizen has.
- Free speech is a fundamental freedom and inalienable right of all natural persons, but **spending money to influence elections or to influence legislators were not meant to be protected under the First Amendment** by our founders. Our Constitution was not meant to give corporations the legal status of persons, either.
- The health of our democracy has been eroded due to the Supreme Court's gradual development of the dual legal fictions that corporations are people and money is speech. The most notorious case was the 5 to 4 decision referred to as *Citizens United v. FEC*. **These legal fictions prevent public campaign financing and regulation.**
- Currently communities can't protect their neighborhoods, small businesses and preferred quality of life from the invasion of big box stores due to corporate personhood. **Removing the legal "personhood" of corporations**, gradually (and nefariously) gained through Supreme Court decisions over many years, would allow We the People to cut the stranglehold the mega-corporations have over the decision-making and wellbeing of our communities, nation, and world.
- **Regulating expenditures on political spending would help** ensure that the mega-corporations and wealthy individuals don't have unfair influence over who gets elected and their subsequent decisions.
- **The Constitution needs to be amended** to state that corporations are not people and money is not speech, as advocated by the national Move to Amend Coalition. This amendment would gradually return to We the People full democratic control over our government.

Resources used for this presentation:

Unequal Protection by Thom Hartmann

Corporations are Not People by Jeffrey D. Clements

Gangs of America by Ted Nace

Read more at <http://movetoamend.org/or-corvallis>.