

ARTICLE 28: (by petition)

TO CREATE AN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AREA IN HOUSATONIC

(Signers, please note: Creating an Economic Opportunity Area only means that the area is established. Anyone wanting to get the tax benefits of an EOA must present plans, which include the number of jobs to be created), and seek voter approval at a separate town meeting.)

To see if the Town will vote to designate the following described area as an Economic Opportunity Area (EOA) as provided for under MGL, Chapter 23A and to be called "Housatonic" EOA for a term of not more than 20 years; and to provide property tax relief in the form of increment financing (TIF) and/or special tax assessment (STA) to certified projects.

Description: The land shown on the 2010 Great Barrington Assessor's Maps, Sheet 1, Parcels 82 - 84, 118A, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127 - 135, 161 -165, 165A, and 189 - 193, 202 - 204, and 242, and Sheet 2, Parcels 10, 19, 20 - 23B, 48 - 52, 58, 59, and 66, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Endorsed by the Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 29: (by petition)

We, the undersigned registered voters of the Town of Great Barrington, hereby petition the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Great Barrington to place on the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for May 2, 2011, the following article:

Article ____: Given that the Town has incurred unfunded post employment benefits for its former and current employees in excess of \$12,400,000, to see if the Town will vote to review and possibly modify its post employment benefits packages for all future employees and negotiated contracts, or to take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 30: (by petition)

A group of citizens is proposing a motion to be placed on the Warrant for the May 2nd Town Meeting:

"To instruct the Selectboard to protect the health of the citizens of Great Barrington by informing themselves of the health risks of the PCB contamination of the Housatonic River, the options for removal and remediation, engaging with the decision making process of the EPA and others concerning the removal and remediation of the PCBs and communicating their findings and decisions on these matters to interested citizens of Great Barrington." or to take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 31: (by petition)

Petition for Constitutional Amendment

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free-speech rights of individuals (“natural persons”), not corporations. For the past three decades, however, a divided United States Supreme Court has steadily eroded-in the name of First Amendment free-speech rights-a number of limitations placed on corporate expenditures aimed at influencing elections and the legislative process. These Supreme Court decisions have shifted political influence from ordinary citizens to corporations, thereby strengthening the power of corporations to limit and block democratically-enacted corporate reforms.

This granting of free-speech rights to corporations reached an extreme conclusion with the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling in *Citizens United v. FEC*, which basically allows corporations to make unlimited expenditures for advocacy in favor or against political candidates and issues. Many see this development as not only a further erosion of the influence of individuals in the political process, but as- in essence- a corporate takeover of the First Amendment.

The U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling in *Citizens United* has already unleashed a torrent of corporate money in our political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in the history of the United States; therefore, this ruling presents a serious and direct threat to our democracy “of the people, by the people and for the people.” The people of the United States have previously used the constitutional amendment process to correct egregiously harmful decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court that go to the heart of our democracy and self-government, such as the *Citizens United* decision. It is for that reason that we present the following resolution to the voters of Great Barrington.

Be it resolved that the voters of Great Barrington, Massachusetts call upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the States for ratification, a Constitutional Amendment that Congress and the States will regulate the expenditure of funds for political speech by any corporation, limited liability company or other corporate entity, or to take any other action relative thereto.