

State of Vermont

Senate Chamber



Montpelier, Vermont

Joint Senate Resolution

By Senators Lyons, Ashe, Baruth, Cummings, Fox, Hartwell, Pollina and Rodgers,

J.R.S. 27. Joint resolution relating to an application of the General Assembly for Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Whereas, it was the stated intention of the framers of the Constitution of the United States of America that the Congress of the United States of America should be “dependent on the people alone” (James Madison or Alexander Hamilton, Federalist 52), and

Whereas, that dependency has evolved from a dependency on the people alone to a dependency on those who spend excessively in elections through campaigns or third-party groups, and

Whereas, the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, 130 S.Ct. 876 (2010), removed restrictions on amounts of independent political spending, and

Whereas, the removal of those restrictions has resulted in the corrupting influence of powerful economic forces, which have supplanted the will of the people by undermining our ability to choose our political leadership, write our own laws, and determine the fate of our State, and

Whereas, the State of Vermont believes that a convention called pursuant to Article V of the U.S. Constitution should be convened to consider amendments to that Constitution to limit the corrupting influence of money in our political system and desires that said convention should be so limited, and

Whereas, the Congress of the United States has failed to propose, pursuant to Article V of the Constitution, amendments that would adequately address the concerns of Vermont, *now therefore be it*

~~**Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:**~~

~~That the General Assembly, pursuant to Article V of the U.S. Constitution, hereby petitions the U.S. Congress to call a convention for the purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America, *and be it further*~~

~~**Resolved:** That not intending to condition this petition, Vermont requests that its specific concerns notwithstanding, the agenda of the convention be limited to those matters enumerated by at least 10 of the states calling for the convention, *and be it further*~~

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly, pursuant to Article V of the U.S. Constitution, hereby petitions the U.S. Congress to call a convention for the sole purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America that would limit the corrupting influence of money in our electoral process, including, inter alia, by overturning the Citizens United decision, and be it further

Resolved: *That this petition shall not be considered by the U.S. Congress until 33 other states submit petitions for the same purpose as proposed by Vermont in this resolution and unless the Congress determines that the scope of amendments to the Constitution of the United States considered by the convention shall be limited to the same purpose requested by Vermont, and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States; the President Pro Tempore and the Secretary of the Senate of the United States; the Speaker and Clerk of the House of Representatives of the United States; the Archivist of the United States; and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.