



State of Wisconsin
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1245/1
JK:wlj

2017 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 24

March 29, 2017 - Introduced by Senator C. LARSON, cosponsored by Representatives CROWLEY, VRUWINK, BROSTOFF, ANDERSON, HINTZ, SINICKI, GOYKE and ZEPNICK. Referred to Committee on Elections and Utilities.

1 **Relating to:** Wisconsin legislative resolution to restore free and fair elections in the
2 United States and to apply to Congress for a limited national convention for the
3 exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that
4 would restore balance and integrity to our elections.

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

8 Whereas, that dependency has evolved from a dependency on the people alone
9 to a dependency on powerful special interests, through campaigns or through
10 third-party groups, that has created a fundamental imbalance in our representative
11 democracy; and

12 Whereas, Americans across the political spectrum agree that elections in the
13 United States of America should be free from the disproportional influence of special
14 interests and should be fair enough that any eligible citizen can be elected into office;
15 and

1 Whereas, Article V of the U.S. Constitution requires the U.S. Congress to call
2 a convention for proposing amendments upon application of two-thirds of the
3 legislatures of the several states for the purpose of proposing amendments to the
4 Constitution; and

5 Whereas, the Wisconsin legislature perceives the need for a convention in order
6 to restore balance and integrity to our elections by proposing an amendment to the
7 U.S. Constitution that would permanently protect elections in the United States of
8 America by addressing issues raised by the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in
9 *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, 130 S. Ct. 876 (2010), and in related
10 cases and events, and desires that said convention should be so limited; and

11 Whereas, the State of Wisconsin desires that the delegates to said convention
12 shall be composed equally of individuals currently elected to state and local office,
13 or be selected by election, in each congressional district, except that all individuals
14 elected or appointed to federal office, now or in the past, shall be prohibited from
15 serving as delegates to the convention; and

16 Whereas, the State of Wisconsin intends that this be a continuing application
17 considered together with applications calling for a convention passed in the 2013-14
18 Vermont legislature as R454, the 2013-14 California legislature as Resolution
19 Chapter 77, the 98th Illinois general assembly as Senate Joint Resolution No. 42, the
20 2014-15 New Jersey legislature as SCR 132, the 2015-16 Rhode Island legislature
21 as HR 7670 and SR 2589, and all other passed, pending, and future applications, the
22 aforementioned concerns of Wisconsin notwithstanding, until such time as
23 two-thirds of the several states have applied for a convention and said convention
24 is convened by Congress; now, therefore, be it

1 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the people of the
2 State of Wisconsin, speaking through its legislature, and pursuant to Article V of the
3 United States Constitution, hereby petition the United States Congress to call a
4 convention for the exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution
5 that would restore free and fair elections as described herein, as soon as two-thirds
6 of the several states have applied for a convention; and, be it further

7 ***Resolved, That*** the Wisconsin delegation to a convention called pursuant to
8 this resolution shall have no discretion beyond that granted by the Wisconsin
9 legislature and that the legislature shall retain its authority to restrict or expand the
10 power of its delegates within the limits expressed herein; and, be it further

11 ***Resolved, That*** the chief clerk of the Wisconsin Senate shall transmit copies
12 of this resolution to the president of the United States; the vice president of the
13 United States in his capacity as presiding officer of the United States Senate and
14 addressed to him at Suite S-212, U.S. Capitol Building, Washington, DC 20510; the
15 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; the minority leader of the
16 United States House of Representatives; the president pro tempore of the United
17 States Senate; each senator and representative from Wisconsin in the Congress of
18 the United States with the respectful request that the full and complete text of this
19 resolution be printed in the Congressional Record; the governor of each state; and the
20 presiding officers of each legislative body of each of the several states, requesting the
21 cooperation of the states in issuing an application compelling Congress to call a
22 convention for proposing amendments pursuant to Article V of the United States
23 Constitution.