2015 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 56


Relating to: Wisconsin Legislative Resolution to Restore Free and Fair Elections in the United States.

Whereas, George Washington, the first president of the United States, stated, “The basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and to alter their Constitutions of Government”; and

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, 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 through third-party groups; and

Whereas, the United States Supreme Court ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, 558 U.S. 310 (2010), removed restrictions on amounts of independent political spending; and
Whereas, the removal of those restrictions has resulted in the unjust 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, Article V of the United States Constitution requires the United
States Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments upon application of
two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states for the purpose of proposing
amendments to the Constitution; and

Whereas, the State of Wisconsin sees the need for a convention to propose
amendments in order to address concerns such as those raised by the decision of the
United States Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*,
(2010) 130 S. Ct. 876, and related cases and events, including those occurring long
before or afterward or for a substantially similar purpose, and desires that said
convention should be so limited; and

Whereas, the State of Wisconsin desires that the delegates to said convention
shall be comprised equally of individuals currently elected to state and local office,
or be selected by election, in each congressional district for the purpose of serving as
delegates, though all individuals elected or appointed to federal office, now or in the
past, be prohibited from serving as delegates to the convention, and intends to retain
the ability to restrict or expand the power of its delegates within the limits expressed
above; and

Whereas, the State of Wisconsin intends that this be a continuing application
considered together with applications calling for a convention passed in the 2013–14
Vermont legislature as R454, the 2013–14 California legislature as Resolution
Chapter 77, the 98th Illinois General Assembly as Senate Joint Resolution No. 42,
the 2014-15 New Jersey legislature as SCR 132, and all other passed, pending, and
future applications, the aforementioned concerns of Wisconsin notwithstanding,
until such time as two-thirds of the several states have applied for a convention and
said convention is convened by Congress; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the people of the
State of Wisconsin, speaking through its legislature, and pursuant to Article V of the
United States Constitution, hereby petition the United States Congress to call a
Convention for the purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution of the
United States of America as soon as two-thirds of the several states have applied for
a convention; and, be it further

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

(END)