

Town of Orono

RESOLVE, In Support of a Constitutional Amendment to Regulate Campaign Spending

By the Town Council of the Town of Orono, Maine.

WHEREAS, legislative efforts within the U.S. Congress have had only limited influence in controlling campaign finance and spending; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Supreme Court rulings including Citizens United (2010) have disproportionately elevated the role of special interest groups in elections; and

WHEREAS, campaign spending by special interest groups has continued to increase in great excess over economic growth indicators on national, state, and local levels, thereby diminishing the voices and influence of ordinary Americans including citizens of Orono; and

WHEREAS, anonymity of contributors to political funding entities robs the public of knowledge of which special interests are supporting particular candidates or referenda; and

WHEREAS, excessive influence bought through campaign spending can corrupt our politicians and public officials and adversely affect Orono's infrastructure, schools, and other community institutions; and

WHEREAS, numerous citizens of Orono and other Maine jurisdictions have expressed to their state legislators their displeasure with excessive campaign spending and have called for effective tools to protect the democratic process including stronger laws governing elections and campaign finance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Orono Town Council hereby declares its support for an Amendment to the United States Constitution on Campaign Finance for the purposes of:


- (1) Empowering federal and state governments to regulate and limit the raising and spending of funds in elections; and
- (2) Clarifying the nature of corporations within the context of their role in the political process; and
- (3) Clarifying the role of unions and other special interest groups within the political process; and

- (4) Provide that federal and state governments have the ability to regulate and limit participation in political activity by corporations, unions and special interest groups.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution of the Orono Town Council shall be directed to Orono's representatives in the 126th Maine Legislature, urging them to support and promote passage by that state body of a resolution calling for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution for the purposes stated above. That state-level resolution shall, in turn, be directed to Maine's members of Congress to call upon them to actively support and promote in the Congress a United States Constitutional Amendment on Campaign Finance toward the purposes stated above. Copies of this Council resolution shall also be provided directly to Maine's members of Congress.

Signed this 11th day of February, 2013 on behalf of the Orono Town Council.

Witness: 
Town Clerk

Signed: 
Chairman of Council