

**TOWN OF CLAYTON
RESOLUTION 2017-001
A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT**

Whereas, government of, by, and for the people has long been a cherished American value, and;

Whereas, free and fair elections are essential to Democracy and effective self-governance, and;

Whereas, Corporations are not and have never been human beings or persons, and therefore are rightfully subservient to human beings and governments as our legal creations; and rightly are provided ONLY privileges by the States, and;

Whereas, interpretation of the U.S. Constitution by appointed Supreme Court Justices to include Corporations in the term “persons” has long denied We the People’s exercise of self-governance by endowing Corporations with Constitutional protections intended by the Framers for ONLY We the People, and;

Whereas, in 1976 in the ruling on Buckley v. Valeo, the untenable decision of the Supreme Court changed the course of American elections and established the doctrine that spending money to influence elections is a form of speech; and;

Whereas, on January 10, 2010, in Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission, the Supreme Court overturned a century of precedence by ruling that corporate spending on elections cannot be limited under the First Amendment; now therefore,

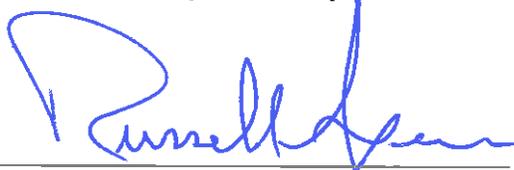
Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that “We the People” of the Town of Clayton, Wisconsin, seek to reclaim Democracy from the expansion of corporate personhood rights and the corrupting influence of unregulated political contributions and spending. We stand with communities across the country to support passage of an amendment to the United States Constitution stating the following:

- 1. Only human beings – not corporations, unions, nonprofits or other artificial entities – are endowed with Constitutional rights, and**
- 2. Money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.**

Now Therefore Be It Further Resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Clayton Wisconsin, directs the Clerk to forward a copy of this Resolution to our State and Federal Representatives – instructing them to enact Resolutions and Legislation to advance this effort.

Adopted this 18th, day of January, 2017

Vote: Yes 5 No 0



Russell D. Geise, Town Chairperson

Attest: 

Richard Johnston, Town Administrator/Clerk