

DEMOCRACY AWAKENING 2016

DEMOCRACY FOR ALL AMENDMENT

The Democracy For All Amendment (H.J.Res. 22, S.J.Res. 5) is a constitutional amendment that would restore the ability of Congress and state legislatures to regulate the raising and spending of money in elections. It overturns misguided Supreme Court decisions like *Citizens United v. FEC* that threaten the integrity of our democracy. These Supreme Court decisions together have created a system in which outside interests can spend unlimited amounts of money on political elections with little to no transparency or accountability. This has allowed wealthy and powerful corporations and individuals to purchase outsized influence in our political process.

While amending the Constitution is unquestionably a weighty matter—only warranted in rare and compelling circumstances—this is one of those moments in our nation’s history. The American people are increasingly speaking out about the need for commonsense limits on money in elections. Support for an amendment is robust compared to other solutions. And those other solutions fare better when paired with an amendment.

Americans are fed up.

Big problems call for big solutions.

The time to put our democracy back in the hands of “We, the People” is now.

TEXT

Section 1. To advance democratic self-government and political equality, and to protect the integrity of government and the electoral process, Congress and the States may regulate and set reasonable limits on the raising and spending of money by candidates and others to influence elections.

Section 2. Congress and the States shall have power to implement and enforce this article by appropriate legislation, and may distinguish between natural persons and corporations or other artificial entities created by law, including by prohibiting such entities from spending money to influence elections.

Section 3. Nothing in this article shall be construed to grant Congress or the States the power to abridge the freedom of the press.

STATUS

In order for the Democracy For All Amendment to be enacted, it needs to pass with a two-thirds majority in Congress, and then be ratified by three-quarters of the states. This is a big lift, but as of March 7 we were halfway there in the House with 147 cosponsors and sixty-percent there in the Senate with 41 supporters, and had 16 states and nearly 700 municipalities on record with general amendment support. In addition, the Democracy Awakening represents the growing movement that has formed among democracy advocates and everyday Americans who will continue pushing for the Democracy For All Amendment and other money in politics and voting rights reforms for years to come.

GET INVOLVED

We need your voice in this movement. If you have yet to become a cosponsor, contact Joel Richard in Representative Deutch's office regarding H.J.Res. 22 or Matt Nelson in Senator Udall's office regarding S.J.Res. 5.