

**The Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC)
Supports Amending the United States Constitution
to Restore the People's Power to
Limit Corporate Influence in Elections and Policymaking**

Whereas, the U.S. Supreme Court's interpretation of the constitution in their Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission (FEC) decision adversely impacted the rights of the people; it is incumbent upon local, state, and federal elected officials to restore the authority of the American people and to restrict the undue influence of corporations on our elections and public policy; and

Whereas, the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision in Citizens United v. FEC broke with long-settled legal precedents that acknowledged the power of citizens through their elected representatives to limit corporate influence in elections; and

Whereas, the Supreme Court's radical rewrite of the First Amendment's protections will permit even greater corporate influence over our political process by allowing unlimited spending from corporate profits to favor or oppose candidates; and

Whereas, due to the vastly greater financial resources corporations have for spending money to influence elections compared with regular people and even with groups of regular people such as unions, the Supreme Court's decision will allow the free speech rights of a corporation to dilute and outweigh the free speech rights of ordinary citizens; and

Whereas, the Supreme Court's elevation of corporate "rights" may have constitutional repercussions that go far beyond this one case and will undermine the ability of the people to regulate corporations in numerous policy areas affecting people's health, wealth, and opportunities; and

Whereas, the American people, through their local, state, and federal governments, must reclaim their rightful place as sovereigns in our democracy and protect the electoral process from corporate domination; and

Whereas, fair elections are fundamental to the health and well-being of our democracy; and

Whereas, the FCDC believes that corporations are not entitled to the same rights in our elections as people; and

Whereas, between 1795 and 2010; in order to improve, clarify, and redress wrongs; the people of the United States of America have successfully amended the United States Constitution 17 times; an average of once every 13 years.

Therefore, Be It Resolved the FCDC strongly condemns the Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United vs. FEC; and

Therefore, Be It Further Resolved that the FCDC urges every Democratic member of the Virginia delegation to Congress to actively support amending the U.S. Constitution to restrict the influence of corporations on our elections and to restore the authority of the American people.