



What is Free Speech for People?

Free Speech For People (FSFP) is a national, non-partisan campaign seeking to restore democracy to the people and to ensure that people, not corporations, govern in America. FSFP is dedicated to overturning, through a 28th Amendment to the US Constitution, the US Supreme Court's January 2010 ruling in *Citizens United v. FEC* and a corporate rights doctrine, which threatens our elections and our self-government.

What is the problem?

On January 21, 2010, the US Supreme Court, in *Citizens United v. FEC*, overturned longstanding precedent barring corporate expenditures in our elections. The ruling allows corporations to spend unlimited amounts of money in our political process. It also extends, in the most extreme way yet, the dangerous claim that corporations should be treated as people under the US Constitution with the same constitutional rights.

What will it take to overturn this Supreme Court decision?

There are only two ways a Supreme Court ruling can be overturned. The Court could do so itself via a new case or the people can do so via a Constitutional amendment. In order to win a new amendment, we must pass it through two thirds of both houses of Congress and then it goes to the States for ratification. From there, we'll need $\frac{3}{4}$ of all state legislatures to enact it. The Court's ruling in *Citizens United* demands that, once again, we the people use the constitutional amendment process to defend our democracy.

What will the People's Rights Amendment say and what will it do?

The People's Rights Amendment, our name for this language behind this Constitutional amendment, will overturn the *Citizens United v. FEC* ruling and a corporate rights doctrine and will restore our Constitution and democracy to the people. The People's Rights Amendment will end the misuse and abuse of people's constitutional rights by multinational corporations to subvert democratically enacted laws and to gain advantage over competitors. The amendment makes clear that corporations are not people with constitutional rights and ensures that people, not corporations, govern in America.

The Free Speech for People Campaign will work with others to develop specific language for the People's Rights Amendment. Check out our website to read the full text of our proposed language for the amendment.

Is a Constitutional amendment an appropriate response?

Yes. We have amended the Constitution 27 times. Most of these Amendments corrected what the American people understood were improper restrictions on the right of all people to participate in self-government on equal terms.

Will the People's Rights Amendment limit speech?

No. The People's Rights Amendment will preserve and protect free speech for everyone. Eliminating corporate money in politics or eliminating the ability of corporations to strike down laws that executives of a corporation may think limit corporate marketing campaigns will not affect the speech rights of a single person.

The People's Rights Amendment simply means that we will not allow courts to pretend that corporations are people when it comes to the Constitution.

What about the press?

The People's Rights Amendment will do nothing to infringe freedom of speech or of the press. The First Amendment clearly prevents government suppression of "the press," whether a corporation or not, and that is as it should be.

Regardless of whether the New York Times, Fox News, and other media are operated by people using the corporate form, the media are "press" under the First Amendment, and are not subject to restriction of expression or press activities.

Will the People's Rights Amendment prevent people from joining together into political parties, citizens' organizations, associations, unions or other groups to participate in elections and public debate?

No. The People's Rights Amendment applies to corporate entities, has no application to voluntary associations, and does not change constitutionally protected freedom of association. People are always free to associate with others to promote their speech or engage in political activity.

What will be the impact of the Amendment on company political action committees (PACs) and employee contributions?

The People's Rights Amendment will have no impact on laws that apply to political action committee (PAC) contributions and individual contributions made by company employees or others.

Who Funds Free Speech For People?

Free Speech For People is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that receives funding from individuals and foundations across the country.

What can people do?

There are many ways you can get involved in this campaign. Visit our website for more information and a full toolkit of materials to learn more and take action!