

2518 S. 13<sup>TH</sup> PI  
La Crosse, WI 54601

[DATE] - TBD

City of La Crosse Common Council  
City of La Crosse  
400 La Crosse St.  
La Crosse, WI 54601

**RE: PETITION FOR DIRECT LEGISLATION**

Dear Common Council Members:

On behalf of La Crosse United to Amend, please find enclosed a *petition certification* for direct legislation bearing the signatures of 3693 individuals, a number of electors equal to at least 15% of the votes cast for governor at the last general election in the City of La Crosse. Although the council could itself pass the proposed, resolution, pursuant to Wisconsin Statute § 9.20(4), we request that the council refer the resolution, without alteration, to a vote of the Electors on the April 3, 2018 ballot in the City of La Crosse. We believe that the voters of the City of La Crosse should have the opportunity to directly and democratically express their interest on this matter. We have attached a copy of the resolution that we would like the council to pass after the citizens vote on it.

This resolution calls for a Constitutional Amendment declaring that: 1) Only human beings are endowed with constitutional rights — not corporations, unions, nonprofits or other artificial entities, and 2) Money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech under the First Amendment. A “Yes” vote on this resolution would indicate support for a Constitutional Amendment, while a “No” vote would indicate opposition to an Amendment.

Please contact Pam Knudtson, of La Crosse United to Amend at 608-788-3549 should you have any questions or concerns about the validity or sufficiency of our petition.

Sincerely,



Wanda Spraggon  
Resident of the City of La Crosse  
608-792-6998

Enclosures

cc: Teri Lehrke, City of La Crosse Clerk

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**  
**By the City of La Crosse**  
**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 never have 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,

**Resolved**, that "We the People" of the City of La Crosse, 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:

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

**Further Resolved** that the City of La Crosse Wisconsin Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to our state and federal representatives – instructing them to enact resolutions and legislation to advance this effort.

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Mayor, City of La Crosse*

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*City of La Crosse Clerk*

\*\*\*\*\* Note to clerk

**If the municipality has referred the resolution to a vote of the electors, and the electors approve, the resolution should be signed after the election results are known, and the following sentence could be included above the signatures.**

**"APPROVED** by \_\_\_ % of the Electors of the City of La Crosse, Wisconsin, at the April 3, 2018 Election."  
\*\*\*\*\* End note to clerk