

Resolve 11-11/12

Passage 1/18/12 6-2 (Coyne, Leeman) (Suslovic gone)

MICHAEL F. BRENNAN (MAYOR)

KEVIN J. DONOGHUE (1)

DAVID A. MARSHALL (2)

EDWARD J. SUSLOVIC (3)

CHERYL A. LEEMAN (4)

**CITY OF PORTLAND**  
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

JOHN R. COYNE (5)

JOHN M. ANTON (A/L)

JILL C. DUSON (A/L)

NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES (A/L)

**Opposing the US Supreme Court's interpretation of the Constitution in Citizens United vs. FEC**

**Whereas**, government of, by, and for the people has long been a cherished American value, and We The People's fundamental and inalienable right to self-govern, and thereby secure rights to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness is guaranteed in the US Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, and;

**Whereas**, free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective self-governance, and the state of Maine has been a leader in championing clean election laws to separate money from politics, and;

**Whereas**, persons are rightfully recognized as human beings whose essential needs include clean air, clean water, safe and secure food, and housing, and;

**Whereas**, corporations are entirely human-made legal entities created by the express permission of We The People and our government; and

**Whereas**, the great wealth of large corporations allows them to wield coercive force of law to overpower the votes of human beings and communities, thus denying We The People's exercise of our Constitutional rights, and;

**Whereas**, the judicial bestowal of civil and political rights upon corporations usurps basic human and Constitutional rights guaranteed to human persons, and;

**Whereas**, corporations are not and have never been human beings, and are legal creations rightfully beholden to the people and the governments that created them and;

**Whereas**, in the recent case of Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission decision the Supreme Court used corporate personhood in part of its decision to allow unlimited corporate spending to influence elections and therefore forces elected officials to divert their attention from The People's business in order to ensure competitive campaign funds for their own re-election, and;

**Whereas**, millions of people across the nation are joining the cities of New York, Los Angeles, Oakland, Albany, and Boulder to call for an Amendment to the US Constitution to abolish corporate personhood;

**Whereas**, the use of private money to influence public elections is the antithesis of Maine's traditional political values of independence, equality and civic engagement.

**Therefore be it resolved** that the City of Portland hereby calls on our Congressional leaders to join tens of thousands of citizens to support an Amendment to the Constitution to Abolish Corporate Personhood and return our democracy to We The People.

**Be it further resolved**, that the City of Portland calls on other communities and jurisdictions across the state to join with us in this action by passing similar resolutions.

**Be it further resolved,** that the City of Portland supports public education to increase awareness of the threat to our democracy posed by Corporate Personhood.

**Be it further resolved,** that the City of Portland supports maintaining and expanding the Maine Clean Elections Fund so as to keep private money from distorting elections.