Resolution in Support of Reducing Corporate Influence in Washington Elections

WHEREAS corporate spending in elections has increased exponentially[1] since the Supreme Court rulings in *Citizens United v FEC* (2010) and *Buckley v Valeo* (1976); and

WHEREAS the Washington State Democrats' platform opposes corporate influence in elections[2]; and

WHEREAS corporations are "artificial beings"[3] and simply legal entities created under state law and derive their powers from the states that charter them; and

WHEREAS meaningful reform through either reversal of *Citizens United* or a constitutional amendment is uncertain and may take many years; and

WHEREAS SB 6358[4] legislation addressing corporate influence in elections, was introduced in the Washington State Legislature near the end of the 2026 legislative session and will be reintroduced in 2027;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 37th District Democrats call upon the Washington State Legislature to adopt legislation prohibiting corporate participation in ballot measures and election-related spending; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 37th District Democrats urge legislators to co-sponsor and pass, successor legislation to SB 6358, in the next legislative session; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the 37th District Democrats will encourage organizing and publicizing support for this effort to get big money out of our elections and to make political spending more accountable and transparent in our state.

[1] https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/citizens-united-explained

https://www.opensecrets.org/news/2025/01/by-the-numbers-15-years-of-citizens-united/

[2] Washington State Democrats Platform. 14.2.11. Eliminate Citizens United. Elections should be publicly funded and stop allowing unlimited financing by the wealthy.

[3] https://journals.law.harvard.edu/jlpp/wp-content/uploads/sites/90/2017/04/Wolfe_FINAL.pdf

[4] Senate Bill 6358, Concerning Corporate Powers

https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=6358&Year=2026&Initiative=false