

3010 Fleetway Court
Manitowoc, WI 54220

June 3, 2016

Manitowoc City Council
900 Quay Street
Manitowoc, WI 54220

RE: PETITION FOR DIRECT LEGISLATION

Dear Common Council Members:

On behalf of Manitowoc United to Amend, please find enclosed a *petition certification* for direct legislation bearing the signatures of over 2400 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 Manitowoc. Although the Council could itself pass the proposed resolution, pursuant to Wisconsin Statute § 9.20(4), we request that it refer the ***attached proposed resolution***, without alteration, to a vote of the Electors on the November 8, 2016 ballot in City of Manitowoc. We believe that the voters of the City of Manitowoc should have the opportunity to directly and democratically express themselves on this matter.

This resolution calls for a Constitutional Amendment declaring that: 1) Only human beings - not corporations, unions, nonprofits, or similar associations - are endowed with constitutional rights; 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.

As the individual filing on behalf of Manitowoc United to Amend, please contact me directly should you have any questions or concerns about the validity or sufficiency of our petition.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Bernhart
Resident of the City of Manitowoc
920-629-0620

Enclosures

cc: Jennifer Hudon, Manitowoc City Clerk

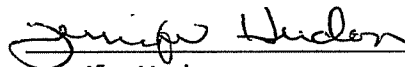
CERTIFICATION

Re: Petition for Direct Legislation
Filed June 2, 2016, concerning the United to Amend Proposed U.S. Constitutional
Amendment

This document constitutes my certification under Section 9.20(3) of the Wisconsin State Statutes that the petition for Direct Legislation filed with this office on June 2, 2016 concerning the United To Amend Proposed U.S. Constitutional Amendment (Corporations are not people and money is not speech and therefore can be regulated) contains an adequate number of valid signatures, is sufficient, and the resolution attached thereto is in proper form. The petition shall therefore be immediately forwarded to the Manitowoc City Council.

Certified this 8th day of June, 2016

City Clerk



Jennifer Hudon
Manitowoc City Clerk

(SEAL)

The full resolution we are asking the municipality to pass is shown here – and is consistent with the truncated language shown on the front of this petition.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION
By the City of Manitowoc Electors
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 by the states ONLY privileges, 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 Manitowoc, 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 – not corporations, unions, nonprofits or similar associations – are endowed with constitutional rights, and**
- 2. Money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.**

Further Resolved that that the City of Manitowoc Wisconsin Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to our state and federal representatives with instructions to