

I-1329

WE THE PEOPLE ★ **Claiming our Democracy**

Get BIG MONEY out of politics!

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Talking Points

- If passed, our citizens' initiative will mean that Washington State joins 16 other states calling for an amendment to get big money out of politics.
- This amendment would have three basic points:
 1. The rights of people protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only.
 2. All citizens should have equal voice in the political process, and no person or artificial legal entity should gain undue influence over government as a result of financial resources. Federal, state, and local governments shall be fully empowered to regulate all political contributions and expenditures to meet this goal.
 3. All political contributions and expenditures shall be publicly disclosed in a full and timely manner.
- Democracy means one person, one vote. Our Supreme Court has decided that those with money can spend unlimited and anonymous dollars to influence elections and legislation, using 'independent' committees, organizations and SuperPACs.
- Allowing unlimited money in elections means our representatives spend most of their time fundraising instead of working on real solutions to real problems. The time they do spend on legislation must serve the needs of their major donors, not the needs of we the people.
- Most independent spending (70-80%) buys negative advertising – because it's effective. Allowing unlimited "dark" money in elections greatly increases negative advertising.
- We are not against corporations. But they should NOT be treated as the equal of real people in the constitution. When unlimited political power is given to unchecked economic power, the result is plutocracy, not democracy. We must clarify the difference between corporations and real people in the constitution, so that courts don't get to decide what rights corporations have – WE do.
- Our amendment would apply to unions and non-profits – any non-human, artificially-created entity or special interest. 501(c)(4) non-profit organizations must not be allowed to receive and spend unlimited money without disclosing who their donors are.