

I-735

GET BIG MONEY OUT OF ELECTIONS!

BALLOT MEASURE SUMMARY

The measure would urge the Washington state congressional delegation to propose a federal constitutional amendment clarifying that constitutional rights belong only to individuals, not corporations; that spending money is not free speech under the First Amendment; that governments are fully empowered to regulate political contributions and expenditures to prevent undue influence; and that political contributions and expenditures must be promptly disclosed to the public. The measure would urge the legislature to ratify such an amendment.

BALLOT TITLE

Statement of Subject: Initiative Measure No. 735 concerns a proposed amendment to the federal constitution.

Concise Description: This measure would urge the Washington state congressional delegation to propose a federal constitutional amendment that constitutional rights belong only to individuals, not corporations, and constitutionally-protected free speech excludes the spending of money.

Should this measure be enacted into law? Yes No

WARNING: EVERY PERSON who signs this petition with any other than his or her true name, knowingly signs more than one of these petitions, signs this petition when he or she is not a legal voter, or makes any false statement on this petition may be punished by fine or imprisonment or both.

INITIATIVE PETITION FOR SUBMISSION TO THE LEGISLATURE

We, the undersigned citizens and legal voters of the State of Washington, respectfully direct that this petition and the proposed measure known as Initiative Measure No 735 and entitled "Initiative Measure No. 735 concerns a proposed amendment to the federal constitution. This measure would urge the Washington state congressional delegation to propose a federal constitutional amendment that constitutional rights belong only to individuals, not corporations, and constitutionally-protected free speech excludes the spending of money. Should this measure be enacted into law?

Yes [] No []," a full, true, and correct copy of which is printed on the reverse side of this petition, be transmitted to the legislature of the State of Washington at its next ensuing regular session, and we respectfully petition the legislature to enact said proposed measure into law; and each of us for himself or herself says: *I have personally signed this petition; I am a legal voter of the State of Washington in the city (or town) and county written after my name, my residence address is correctly stated, and I have knowingly signed this petition only once.*

Washington State Voters sign below to place I-735 before the Washington State Legislature.

| SIGNATURE AS REGISTERED TO VOTE | PRINT NAME FOR POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION | ADDRESS WHERE REGISTERED TO VOTE | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|--------|
| | | STREET ADDRESS OR RR & BOX NUMBER | CITY | COUNTY |
| <i>Jonathan Q. Public</i> | Jonathan Q. Public | 222 NW Edmondson St. | Everett | SNO. |
| 1 | | | | |
| 2 | | | | |
| 3 | | | | |
| 4 | | | | |
| 5 | | | | |
| 6 | | | | |
| 7 | | | | |
| 8 | | | | |
| 9 | | | | |
| 10 | | | | |
| 11 | | | | |
| 12 | | | | |
| 13 | | | | |
| 14 | | | | |
| 15 | | | | |
| 16 | | | | |
| 17 | | | | |
| 18 | | | | |
| 19 | | | | |
| 20 | | | | |

Washington Coalition To Amend The Constitution
P.O. Box 95769
Seattle, WA
98145



FOLD HERE FIRST along the length of page,
toward the front of petition.
Then fold into fourths across the width,
tape shut, stamp, and mail.
THANK YOU!

INITIATIVE MEASURE NO. 735

An Act Relating to the influence of corporations and money in our political system; and creating new section.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

New Section. Sec. 1. INTENT

This act declares that the people of Washington State support amending The Constitution of the United States to eliminate the undue influence of concentrated money and political power on elections and governmental policy. The amendment would overturn decisions by the Supreme Court of the United States extending constitutional rights to corporations and other artificial legal entities as well as those decisions equating the spending of money with free speech. It also provides for the regulation and disclosure of political contributions and spending.

New Section. Sec. 2. FINDINGS

1. Free and fair elections, as well as honest representation, are essential to self-determination and self-governance as described in The Declaration of Independence and established in The Constitution of the United States.
2. The American people have lost faith in the political process because their voices are not heard and their interests are not represented. Thus, an ever smaller percentage of Americans is motivated to vote.
3. The U.S. Constitution makes no mention of corporations or other artificial entities; there are no provisions extending rights to such entities. However, through a series of decisions equating a "corporation" with a "person," the U.S. Supreme Court extended to corporations the constitutional rights and protections intended for people only.
4. Unlike human beings, corporations can exist in perpetuity and in many countries at the same time. As a result many large corporations, both foreign and domestic, invest in campaigns to invalidate or bypass regulatory law intended to protect the public. Thus, corporate participation in the political process often conflicts with the public interest.
5. Money is property; it is not speech. Nowhere in the U.S. Constitution is money equated with speech. Because advertising is limited and costly, equating the spending of money with free speech gives those with the most money the most speech.

6. Whenever special interests, including very wealthy individuals, are able to spend unlimited amounts of money on political speech, candidates and office-holders can be corrupted and intimidated, and the free speech of most citizens is drowned out and denied. Monopolizing public speech neither promotes nor protects free speech.
7. Anonymous contributions and spending for political gain promote dishonesty and corruption, preventing voters from assessing the motives of the speaker. The public must be able to hold funders of political speech accountable when their messages prove false or misleading. Full and prompt disclosure of funding sources is essential to an informed electorate, fair elections, and effective governance.
8. Article V of the U.S. Constitution empowers the people and the states to use the amendment process to correct egregious decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court that subvert our representative government.

New Section. Sec. 3. POLICY & PROMOTION

The voters of the State of Washington urge immediate action by the current and future Washington State congressional delegations to propose a joint resolution for an amendment to The Constitution of the United States clarifying that:

1. The rights listed and acknowledged in The Constitution of the United States are the rights of individual human beings only.
2. The judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to be free speech under the First Amendment of The Constitution of the United States. Federal, state, and local governments shall be fully empowered to regulate political contributions and expenditures to ensure that no person or artificial legal entity gains undue influence over government and the political process.
3. All political contributions and expenditures shall be disclosed promptly and in a manner accessible to voters prior to elections.
4. This act does not limit the people's rights to freedom of speech, freedom of the press, free exercise of religion, or freedom of association.

PETITION GATHERER, SIGN HERE!

I, _____ swear or affirm under penalty of law that I circulated this sheet of the foregoing petition, and that, to the best of

(print)

my knowledge, every person who signed this sheet of the foregoing petition knowingly and without any compensation or promise of compensation willingly signed his or her true name and that the information provided therewith is true and correct. I further acknowledge that under chapter 29A.84 RCW, forgery of signatures on this petition constitutes a class C felony, and that offering any consideration or gratuity to any person to induce them to sign a petition is a gross misdemeanor, such violations being punishable by fine or imprisonment or both.

RCW 9A.46.020 applies to any conduct constituting harassment against a petition signature gatherer. This penalty does not preclude the victim from seeking any other remedy otherwise available under law.

NAME (signature) _____ PHONE _____

HOME EMAIL _____ THANK YOU very much! Shall we mail you more petitions? _____ How many? _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

For questions or to get more petition forms, contact: nimcoblale@wamend.org or visit wamend.org

Paid for by Washington Coalition to Amend the Constitution