

**A RESOLUTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, OREGON
DPWC # 2016-032**

**Regarding Support for an Article V Convention to Address
Campaign Finance Reform**

WHEREAS House Joint Memorial (HJM) 201 was introduced into the 2016 Oregon legislative Assembly for the purpose of petitioning “Congress to call a convention for the purpose of proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution relating to” the influence of money in politics such as caused by the *Citizens United* Supreme Court decision; and

WHEREAS HJM 201 was introduced in 2016 with 4 sponsors and 30 co-sponsors from both the House of Representatives and Senate; and

WHEREAS, as noted in HJM 201 “American elections should be free of the corrupting influence of excessive spending by outside interests and fair enough that any citizen can run for public office”; and

WHEREAS HJM also notes that “ the United States Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (558 U.S. 310 (2010)) removed restrictions on amounts of independent political spending, and further decisions of the nation’s high court both before and afterward have eroded the foundations of representative democracy in America”; and

WHEREAS HJM 201 stipulates that “the founding fathers of this nation never intended the rights of natural persons protected in the Constitution of the United States to be applied to artificial entities”; and

WHEREAS on Oct. 27, 2016 campaigns and super-PACs filed their final pre-election reports on fundraising with the Federal Election Commission indicating that a total of \$1.58 Billion was raised by the two Presidential candidates; and

WHEREAS HJM 201 (# to be updated for 2017 legislative session) calls for the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon to petition Congress to call an Article V Convention as described above, and

WHEREAS according to Article V of the Constitution, such a convention cannot rewrite the Constitution, but can only propose amendments:

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY (DPWC), OREGON THAT:**

1 . The DPWC supports the goals and intent of HJM 201 (SJM 2 in the 2017

- legislature).
- 2 . The DPWC requests that the Democratic Party of Oregon take an official stand in support of this SJM 2 no later than its first quarterly meeting in March 2017.
 - 3 . The DPWC will forward copies of this Resolution to all Washington County Oregon Legislative Assembly members.
 - 4 . The DPWC will forward copies of this Resolution to the Chairs of all Oregon County Democratic Party organizations with a request they also support SJM 2 (2017 version).

Submitted by: Dan Jensen & Jo Six, 11/29/2016; Passed by P&RC for 1st reading – 12/6/2016; Legislative reference updated.

¹<http://www.bloomberg.com/politics/graphics/2016-presidential-campaign-fundraising/>

²<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2016R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HJM201>