

 END CORPORATE RULE. LEGALIZE DEMOCRACY.
MOVE TO AMEND



COACHELLA VALLEY

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NEWS AND NOTES

September 28, 2015

MTA ASKS THE CANDIDATES TO TAKE A POSITION ON CITIZENS UNITED

*Letter Sent to all
Candidates in
DHS and Palm Springs*

We, the People of the United States of America, reject the U.S. Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling, and move to amend our Constitution to firmly establish that money is not speech, and that human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights.

September 28, 2015

To: Mayor and City Council Candidates

Subject: Request to Know Your Position on Citizens United Case

Move To Amend (MTA) Coachella Valley is the local affiliate of a grassroots, not-for-profit, nonpartisan, single focus national organization.

We feel our democracy is in peril because of court rulings like the Citizens United Supreme Court decision. We wish to know if you are elected, will you support a city council resolution that calls on Congress to pass a Constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United case.

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The Supreme Court ruling in Citizens United and other court cases affects the amount of influence city voters have in their elections. The Supreme Court in June 2012 said the Citizens United case meant that Montana's state law did not apply. So there cannot be limits on campaign contributions in state and local elections.

There are less than fifty multi-millionaires making enormous campaign contributions to more than 600 Super Political Action Committees (PAC's). These groups drowned out the voices of regular voters in the 2012 and 2014 elections. With these court decisions corporations could donate large sums of money to a challenger in the next city council election.

We feel the best method of correcting the Citizens United court case is by adopting a Constitutional amendment. We request that your city council adopt a resolution similar to the one shown below which was approved by the city of Redlands:

WHEREAS, historically corporations were created as artificial entities subordinate to our democracy, yet the U.S. Supreme Court has granted corporations personhood status, free speech and other protections guaranteed to living humans by the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment, and the Redlands City Council considers it to be its right and duty to assert that corporations are not natural persons with human rights; and

WHEREAS, when freedom to speak is equated with freedom to spend money, millions of people who have less money are disenfranchised, thus denying their full rights to free speech.

WHEREAS, Justice Stevens; writing in dissent in Citizens United, stated: "...corporations have no consciences, no beliefs, no feelings, no thoughts, and no desires. Corporations help structure and facilitate the activities of human beings, to be sure, and their "personhood" often serves as a useful legal fiction-, But they are not themselves members of "We the People" by whom and for whom our Constitution was established"; and

WHEREAS, United States Supreme Court Justice Stevens also observed in Nixon v. Shrink Missouri Government PAC (2000) that "money is property, it is not speech", and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of _____ that we support a Constitutional amendment that states corporations are not people and campaign contributions are not equivalent to free speech.

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