Resolution No. 2018-33
SUPPORTING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW LIMITS ON
CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS
AND
CONDUCTING A NON-BINDING STATEWIDE REFERENDUM

TO THE DOOR COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

WHEREAS, Free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective self-governance; and

WHEREAS, The appearance of buying access to candidates or influencing policy, governance, and judicial decisions because of large outsider donations erodes voter confidence in our elections and democracy; and

WHEREAS, The County of Door has an interest in protecting itself and its citizens against intrusions on local control by mitigating the influence of money and privileged access in state and federal government and elections; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Supreme Court’s decisions in Citizens United and related cases allow unlimited spending by certain groups known as Super-PACs to influence local, state, and federal elections; and

WHEREAS, The above mentioned Supreme Court cases:
   • have granted Corporations, Unions, non-profits, and other man-made entities (such as Super-PACs) the same Constitutional protections given only to individual human beings by the Framers of the Constitution, and;
   • have declared money to be ‘free speech’

WHEREAS, as of February 15, 2018, 78.9% of Door County municipalities (15/19) have called upon the Door County Board of Supervisors to support their Resolutions Supporting a Constitutional Amendment to Allow Limits on Campaign Contributions and Conducting a Non-Binding Statewide Referendum.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Door County Board of Supervisors (joining with the 120 Wisconsin communities to date, including 9 other counties) calls upon our elected State Assembly Representative and State Senator and on the Wisconsin State Legislature to hold a non-binding state-wide Referendum asking the voters if they wish the State of Wisconsin to support an Amendment to the United States Constitution stating:

1. Only human beings are endowed with individual constitutional rights—not corporations, unions, non-profits or artificial entities (such as SuperPACs)

2. Money is not speech, and therefore limiting political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That following the Door County resolution, the County Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to all other counties, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and to our state and federal representatives, including the members of any state committees in which such a referendum or bill resides, with instructions to enact resolutions, referenda, and legislation to advance this effort.

SUBMITTED BY: LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Susan Kohout, Chairman
Helen Bacon
Roy Englebert

David Enigl
Steve Sohns

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact associated with the adoption of this resolution. MEJ

Certification:

Jill M. Lau, Clerk of Door County, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution that was adopted on the 17th day of April, 2018 by the Door County Board of Supervisors.

Jill M. Lau
County Clerk, Door County