
Proposition G

Declaration of the City and County of San Francisco to limit political campaign contributions and spending and opposes giving corporations rights entitled to human beings.

NOTE: Additions are single-underline italics Times New Roman; deletions are ~~strike-through italics Times New Roman~~.

The People of the City and County of San Francisco declare that:

It is the position of the People of the City and County of San Francisco that the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights are intended to protect the rights of individual human beings (“natural persons”), and corporations are specifically not mentioned in the Constitution as deserving of rights entitled to human beings. Although corporations can and do make important contributions to our society using advantages that the government has wisely granted them, the People of the City and County of San Francisco do not consider them natural persons.

It is also the position of the People of the City and County of San Francisco that the United States 5:4 ruling in Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission (January 21, 2010) presents a serious threat to democracy by rolling back remaining legal limits on corporate spending in the electoral process; allowing unlimited corporate spending to influence elections, candidate selection, and policy decisions; and potentially unleashing unprecedented amounts of corporate money into our political process. The opinion of the four dissenting justices in the Citizens United case noted that corporations have special advantages not enjoyed by natural persons, such as limited liability, perpetual life, and favorable treatment of the accumulation and distribution of assets, which allow them to engage in exorbitant campaign spending. Through this action, federal courts have enabled the rise of a new type of political action committee (super PACs), that are dominating many elections.

It is the position of the People of the City and County of San Francisco that corporations should not receive the same constitutional rights as natural persons because the expenditure of corporate money is not a form of constitutionally-protected speech, and limits on political spending will promote the goals of the First Amendment, by ensuring that all citizens - regardless of wealth - have an opportunity to have their political views heard.

The People of the City and County of San Francisco instruct our Representatives and Senators in Congress to pass a constitutional amendment to limit campaign contributions and spending and end artificial corporate rights, reversing the decision of the Citizens United case. The People of the City and County of San Francisco call on other communities and jurisdictions to join this action by passing similar Resolutions.