

★ Roll Call Number

15-0459

Agenda Item Number

70

March 9, 2015

Date

RESOLUTION – *Money in Politics*

WHEREAS, government of, by, and for the people has long been a cherished American value, and the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States is intended to protect the free speech rights of people, and;

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

WHEREAS, the Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission Supreme Court decision that changed the legal limits on spending in the electoral process created a new and concerning playing field; and allows unlimited spending by individuals, corporations and other entities to influence elections, candidate selection, and policy decisions. The ruling may encourage elected officials to divert their attention from the peoples' business, in order to ensure competitive campaign funds for their own re-election, and;

WHEREAS, the judicial interpretation that spending money in political campaigns is speech may be contrary to the notion of one person, one vote and allows those with the most money to have an unfair advantage in a political system that should be about ensuring that all citizens have equal access to the political process; and

WHEREAS, money is property, not speech, and;

WHEREAS, people and municipalities across the nation are calling for an Amendment to the US Constitution to address the issues raised in the Citizens United ruling, including Corporate Personhood and Money is not Speech; and

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, that members of the City Council support this movement's goals to make elections fair for all its citizens by amending the Constitution; and that all residents of Des Moines find ways to continue to champion the long standing commitment of government of, by and for the people.

Moved by Moore to adopt.

FORM APPROVED

Jeffrey D. Lester
City Attorney

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE	✓			
COLEMAN	✓			
GATTO	✓			
GRAY	✓			
HENSLEY		✓		
MAHAFFEY			✓	
MOORE	✓			
TOTAL	5	1	1	

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

T. M. Franklin
Mayor

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

City Clerk