

Wisconsin United to Amend: City of Viroqua votes to amend the U.S. Constitution

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Madison, WI (April 4, 2023) - In the April election, Wisconsin residents in the city of Viroqua in Vernon County voted to amend the U.S. Constitution to clarify that only human beings should have inalienable human rights and money is not the same thing as free speech.

The referendum passed with an overwhelming majority (91%).

That brings the total to [170 Wisconsin communities](#) that have called for an amendment. In total, almost 3.5 million people (61% of Wisconsinites) live in these jurisdictions. Across the country, [22 state legislatures](#) have voted for an amendment, as well as over [840 towns, villages, cities and counties](#).

Karen Dahl, a community leader in Viroqua, said “I want to thank the Viroqua City Council for voting 100% of those present to include the resolution on the spring ballot. And, 91% of the vote in Viroqua tells us that people want to clean up our politics. We need to amend the constitution to combat corruption, end elite and foreign money control of our elections, and secure representation for all Americans.”

“Over 60% of Wisconsinites have already called for an end to “corporate personhood” and seeing money as a form of speech.”, explained Shawano resident Jan Koch. “It’s time that our state legislators follow the will of “we the people” and put the referendum on the state ballot.”

Resolutions calling for a statewide vote on Citizens United have been introduced

into the state legislature ([AJR 78](#) / [SJR 61](#)). The referendum would ask voters if they support allowing individuals and corporations to spend unlimited amounts of money on political campaigns.

Numerous polls show that government corruption and money in politics is a top issue in America.[\[1\]](#) Over 90% of Americans, regardless of party, think special interest money has too much influence in American political campaigns.[\[2\]](#)

Jackie Cody, a resident in Rhinelander, explained that: “We need limits on how much money can be contributed and spent on political races. Only people have a constitutional right to free speech. Money is not ‘political speech’ under the First Amendment.”

Four in five Americans oppose the Supreme Court’s *Citizens United v. FEC* decision, according to a [Bloomberg poll](#). A [New York Times/CBS poll](#) found that 85 percent of Americans—including majorities of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—believe we need fundamental changes to our campaign finance system or to completely rebuild it.

Matt Rothschild, executive director of Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, summed it up succinctly: “People across the ideological spectrum get it: All of our voices are being drowned out by those with big money.”

United To Amend is a **nonpartisan**, all volunteer, citizens group.

For more information visit UnitedToAmend.org

Background material can be obtained here: [pdf1](#), [pdf2](#) and [pdf3](#).

Photos: [photo1](#), [photo2](#), [photo3](#), [photo4](#), [photo5](#), [photo6](#) and [photo7](#).

Link to this [press release](#).

[\[1\] http://wiuta.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Money-In-Politics-Polls.pdf](http://wiuta.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Money-In-Politics-Polls.pdf)

[\[2\] https://mayday.us/data/20150925_gop_polling_results.pdf](https://mayday.us/data/20150925_gop_polling_results.pdf)

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