
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8015

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senator Takko

Prefiled 12/08/15.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,
7 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, The 1st President of the United States George Washington
9 stated, "The basis of our political systems is the right of the
10 people to make and to alter their Constitutions of Government"; and

11 WHEREAS, It was the stated intention of the framers of the
12 Constitution of the United States of America that the Congress of the
13 United States of America should be "dependent on the people alone";
14 and

15 WHEREAS, That dependency has evolved from a dependency on the
16 people alone to a dependency on those who spend excessively in
17 elections, through campaigns or third-party groups; and

18 WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens*
19 *United v. Federal Election Commission*, 558 U.S. 310 (2010) removed
20 restrictions on amounts of independent political spending; and

21 WHEREAS, The removal of those restrictions has resulted in the
22 unjust influence of powerful economic forces, which have supplanted
23 the will of the people by undermining our ability to choose our

1 political leadership, write our own laws, and determine the fate of
2 our state; and

3 WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution requires the
4 United States Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments
5 upon application of two-thirds of the legislatures of the several
6 states for the purpose of proposing amendments to the United States
7 Constitution; and

8 WHEREAS, The State of Washington sees the need for a convention
9 to propose amendments in order to address concerns such as those
10 raised by the decision of the United States Supreme Court in *Citizens*
11 *United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010) 130 S.Ct. 876 and
12 related cases and events including those occurring long before or
13 afterward or for a substantially similar purpose, and desires that
14 said convention should be so limited; and

15 WHEREAS, The State of Washington desires that the delegates to
16 said convention shall be comprised equally from individuals currently
17 elected to state and local office, or be selected by election, in
18 each Congressional district for the purpose of serving as delegates,
19 though all individuals elected or appointed to federal office, now or
20 in the past, be prohibited from serving as delegates to the
21 Convention, and intends to retain the ability to restrict or expand
22 the power of its delegates within the limits expressed above; and

23 WHEREAS, The legislature of the State of Washington intends that
24 this joint resolution be a continuing application considered together
25 with similar applications calling for a convention on this subject,
26 such as those approved by Vermont legislators (2014 Vermont Joint
27 Resolution Senate No. 27, 160 Congressional Record S4331, POM-284)
28 and by California lawmakers (2014 California Assembly Joint
29 Resolution No. 1, 160 Congressional Record S5507, POM-320), and
30 introduced by Montana lawmakers (L.C. No. 0095), until such time as
31 the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states have applied for
32 such a convention and that convention has actually been called by
33 Congress;

34 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully request that the
35 people of the State of Washington speaking through its legislature,
36 and pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution, hereby
37 petition the United States Congress to call a Convention for the
38 purpose of proposing Amendments to the Constitution of the United
39 States of America as soon as two-thirds of the several states have
40 applied for a Convention; and

1 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
2 transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of
3 the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
4 Representatives, the Governor of each state, and the presiding
5 officer of each house of each state legislature in the United States,
6 to the Vice President of the United States in his capacity as
7 presiding officer of the United States Senate and addressed to him at
8 the legislative office that he maintains inside the United States
9 Capitol, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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