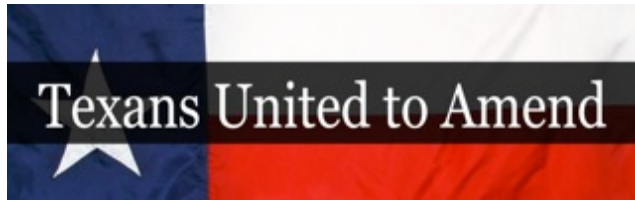


Constitutional Amendment Talking Points



Who am I?

If you are a constituent say so up front. If not, let them know you are a volunteer with a non profit organization, Texans United to Amend.

What do I want?

Have a short “elevator” speech prepared to let them know why you are calling or visiting their office.

If there is specific legislation you want them to support let them know what it is. If you want them to author legislation let them know.

Why a Constitutional Amendment?

The Supreme Court rulings in Citizens United, Speech Now and McCutcheon cases gutted existing federal and state laws regarding spending in elections. This included over 100 years of effective campaign finance laws here in Texas. Our Founding Fathers knew that even an elected government could find a way to turn it's back on “We The People” so they provided us with the final say when they devised the process to amend. To over rule the Supreme Court we must have an amendment to establish that money is not speech and corporations do not have the Constitutional rights of people.

Is Amending the Constitution almost Impossible?

The bar for amending the Constitution was intentionally set high because this instrument is the core of our government and must not be subject to political whim. It has been amended 27 times. The most recent was 1992.

1992: Amended to prevent Congressional salary increases from taking effect until the beginning of the next term.

1971: Amended to give 18 year olds the right to vote.

Since 1950 Six Amendments have been ratified.

It CAN and WILL be done because we are again facing a crisis that can only be remedied this way.

How is the US Constitution Amended?

The Founders knew that amending must not be prevented, so they devised two ways to do it.

- a) **Congress can prepare an amendment.** States can pass resolutions calling for Congress to amend. Congress is not required to comply, although it probably will if enough states pass resolutions. At this time 16 states have passed resolutions. Thirty four are required to pressure Congress to Act. Almost 600 municipal governments have passed resolutions as well. Austin was the first in Texas.

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b) **An Article V Convention can be called by state legislatures.** When thirty four states echo the call for an Article V Convention Congress MUST call a convention to propose an amendment. The people will select delegates to represent their state at the convention. At this time two states (Vermont and California) have passed binding resolutions calling for a convention. Other states have pending legislation.

Why should your representative support a resolution?

When corporations and ultra wealthy individuals make unlimited campaign donations, we get corporate welfare at the expense of public programs. We get back-room deals and crony capitalism instead of transparency, concealing these deals from the public.

Congress is caught between serving their constituents and serving their donors. They cannot solve the nation's problems with this conflict of interest. The proof is that Congress has a 7% favorability rating. The states can pressure Congress to amend or bypass Congress.

Over \$6 billion was spent in the 2012 election, with most of it coming from powerful corporations and wealthy individuals. 95% of races are determined by who has the most money not the best policies.

Despite disclosure rules, it is possible for political action committees (PACs) to conceal the identity of donors. These anonymous donations can provide cover for foreign and multinational corporations to influence our elections and legislation.

Provide data, if available, on how many of their constituents have signed petitions.
Provide letters of support from prominent citizens, articles, educational flyers etc.

Over 10,000 Texans have signed TUTA petitions to reverse Citizens United and ask Congress to amend. There are 25 groups in Texas working to pass local resolutions. We believe Texas should be among the states calling for an amendment.

What do the polls show?

87% of Americans feel it is extremely important that we reduce corruption in the federal government. (Gallup poll)

70% of Americans believe Super PAC spending will lead to corruption (Brennan Ctr poll)

73% of respondents agree that "there would be less corruption if there were limits on how much could be given to Super PACs. (Brennan Center poll)

68% agreed that a company that spent \$100,000 to get a member of Congress elected could successfully pressure him or her to change a vote on proposed legislation

79% of Americans support passage of an amendment to overturn Citizens United and codify that corporations do not have the same rights as people, thus giving Congress the authority to limit corporate spending in elections. (Hart Research poll)