

How to get involved

If you want a strong democratic process in this country...If you believe in a government of, for and by real people...If you want you & your neighbors' interests to be more important to your congressperson than large corporations and wealthy donors,

Here's what you can do:

1. **Join Move to Amend.** Go to www.movetoamend.org, click "sign the petition."
2. Contact your state representative and senator and **tell them to support a state resolution to amend the Constitution** to overturn Citizens United. [Who Represents me?](#)
3. Contact Congressman Reed and tell him to cosponsor H.J.RES.29 -- Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing that the rights extended by the Constitution are the rights of natural persons only and money is not speech.



Join an affiliate, or sign up to organize a local Move to Amend group.

Get big OUT of Politics



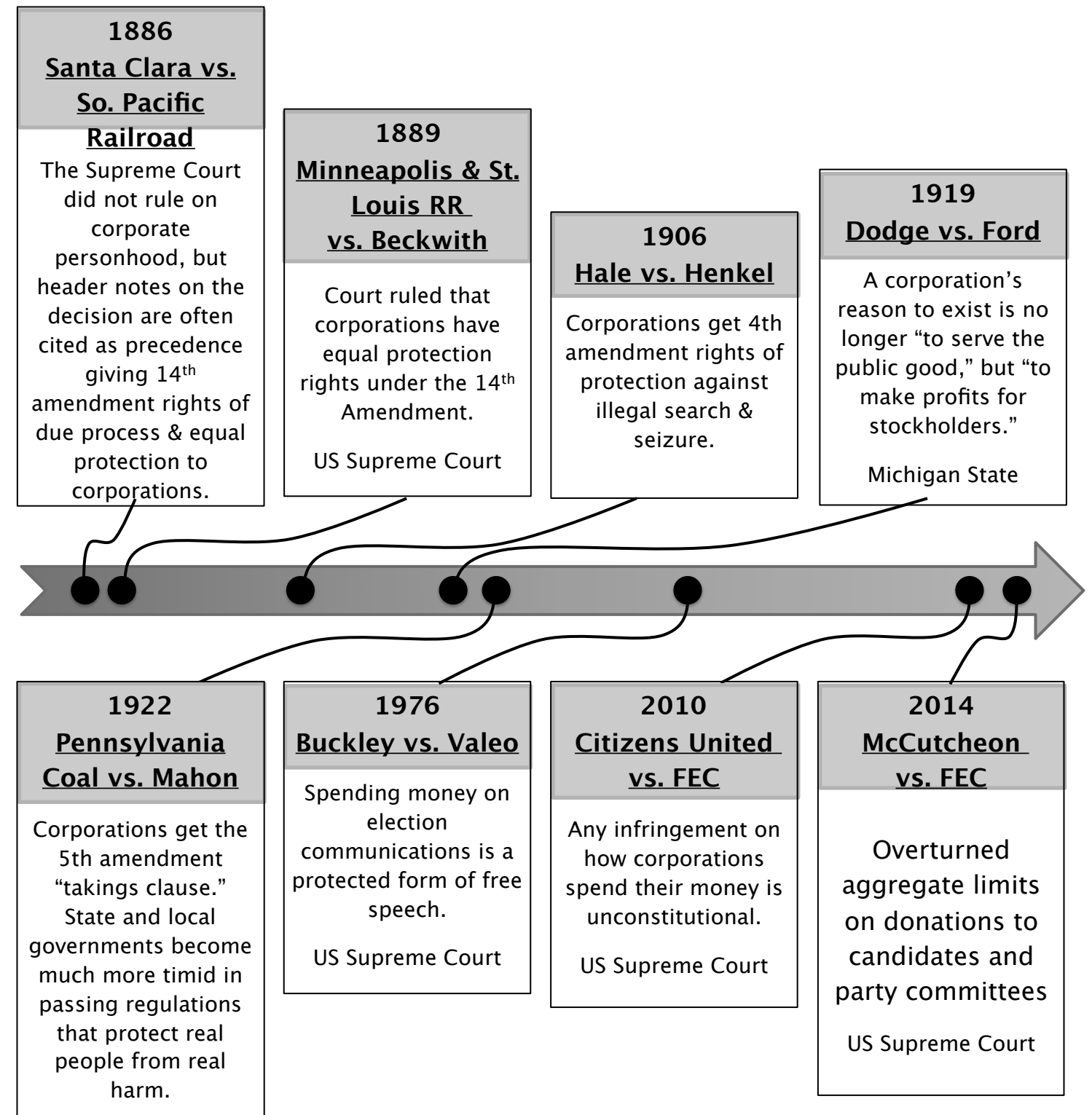
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Timeline of Relevant

Court Cases



Buckley vs. Valeo Case Summary

Article 1, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution grants Congress the power to regulate the manner of elections, and spending money is certainly a “manner” of elections.

In 1974, Congress passed FECA – the Federal Elections Campaign Act. This was the first attempt by Congress to regulate campaign contributions and spending.

FECA:

- set limits on contributions to candidates
- required the disclosure of political contributions
- limited many types of expenditures by candidates and associated committees
- limited candidate expenditures from personal funds

Ruling: The Court upheld limits on campaign contributions, but ruled **spending money to influence elections is a form of constitutionally protected free speech**, and struck down portions of the law.

Since regulating elections is a power granted solely to Congress in the Constitution, this ruling overstepped the Court’s constitutionally granted scope, and opened the floodgates to the very moneyed interests the original legislation had sought to rein in.

Citizens United. v. FEC Case Summary

The 2002 McCain–Feingold Act, also known as the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act, focused on these areas:

- Soft money in campaign financing (money given to a party rather than individual candidates)
- Issue ads
- Controversial campaign practices of the 1996 federal elections
- Increasing political contribution limits for private individuals

Leading up to the 2008 elections, Citizens United produced a pay-per-view video critical of one candidate, and they wanted to advertise it during television broadcasts. A lower court ruled such adverts would be in violation of the 2002 the **McCain–Feingold Act**.

The US Supreme Court vastly overreached the scope of the case, concluding it was unconstitutional to “ban free speech” by limiting independent communications of corporations, associations, and unions.

In other words, **corporations may spend as much of their own money as they want** to support or oppose political candidates through independent communications. This decision essentially legalized corruption in politics.

McCutcheon v. FEC Case Summary

Under FECA, an individual could contribute no more than a combined biennial total of **\$117,000** to political campaigns.

Alabama resident Shaun McCutcheon didn’t think he had enough influence and wanted to contribute more.

The plaintiffs challenged the aggregate limits on contributions as violating the First Amendment.

The Supreme Court overturned the federal aggregate limits allowing wealthy individuals to have more influence over elections.

The case for Amending the Constitution

We, the People of the United States of America, reject the U.S. Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling and other related cases, and move to amend our Constitution to firmly establish that **money is not speech, and that human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights**.

The “We the People Amendment” does not strip corporations from the ability to sue or be sued or to enter into contracts. It merely affirms that all entities created under law (for-profit corporations, non-profit corporations, limited liability partnerships, incorporated unions, etc) are created under the auspices of law, and that any legal privileges such entities exercise are subject to the political process.

Upon adopting such an amendment, the rights corporations currently have would become privileges – privileges that could be regulated, revoked, and importantly, **protected** by legislation as needed and appropriate.