

2 **RESOLUTION: Support a Constitutional Amendment to Allow Limits on Campaign**
3 **Contributions and conducting a non-Binding Statewide Referendum**
4

5 **TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

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

7 **WHEREAS**, the appearance of buying access to candidates or influencing policy, governance, and judicial
8 decisions because of large outsider donations erodes voter confidence in our elections and democracy; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Winnebago County has an interest in protecting itself and its citizens against intrusions on local
10 control by mitigating the influence of money and privileged access in state and federal elections; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the US Supreme Court’s decisions in *Citizens United* and related cases allow unlimited
12 spending by certain groups known as Super-PACS to influence local, state, and federal elections; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the above-mentioned US Supreme Court cases have:

- 14 • granted corporations, unions, non-profits, and other manmade entities (such as Super-PACS) the same
- 15 constitutional protections given only to individual human beings by the framers of the constitution; and
- 16 • declared money to be “free speech”; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Winnebago County municipalities have called upon the Winnebago County Board of
18 Supervisors to support their resolutions supporting a constitutional amendment to allow limits on campaign
19 contributions and conducting a non-binding statewide referendum.

20
21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby calls
22 upon our elected state assembly representatives and senators, and the Wisconsin State Legislature, to hold a non-
23 binding statewide referendum asking the voters if they wish the State of Wisconsin to support an amendment to the
24 US Constitution stating:

- 25 1. Only human beings are endowed with individual constitutional rights, not corporations, unions, non-profits, or
- 26 artificial entities (such as Super-PACS).
- 27 2. Money is not speech and, therefore, limiting political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting
- 28 political speech.

29
30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby directs the
31 Winnebago County Clerk to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Office of Governor Scott Walker, the Wisconsin
32 Counties Association, and all state senators and assembly members representing Winnebago County constituents.

33
34 Respectfully submitted by:

35 **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

36 Committee Vote: **14-0**

37 Vote Required for Passage: **Majority of Those Present**

38
39 Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this ____ day of _____, 2018.

40
41 _____
42 Mark L Harris
43 Winnebago County Executive