

PROPOSED RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ABOLISHING CORPORATE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND CREATING A TRULY REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY, OXFORD, OHIO

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

WHEREAS, corporations are not and have never been human beings, but instead are legal constructs created by the People through our representative government and are therefore subject to our interests; and

WHEREAS, money is property, not speech, and people with the most property do not have more rights to speech than the average person; and

WHEREAS, in a 2010 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, *Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission*, the Supreme Court overturned key provisions of the federal Campaign Reform Act enacted in 2002, and ruled that corporate entities, and labor unions, have the same rights as individuals to unrestricted spending on political speech, restricting the ability of federal, state and local governments to enact reasonable campaign finance reforms and regulations protecting the health, safety, and welfare of people and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, corporations can make important contributions to our society, but granting corporate constitutional rights benefit only large corporations, disadvantaging local interests and the small and family-owned businesses that governments most closely work with and support; and

WHEREAS, the people of the United States have previously used the constitutional amendment process to correct decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court that are widely deemed to be egregious or wrongly decided or significantly out-of-step with the prevailing values of the populace; and

WHEREAS, more than 300 cities, towns, and states have already passed similar calls for a constitutional amendment protecting the sovereignty of the People; and

WHEREAS, local governments have always played an essential role in protecting the integrity of our political processes;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OXFORD, BUTLER COUNTY, STATE OF OHIO, THAT:

SECTION 1: The City of Oxford joins the growing number of communities across the country in calling for an Amendment to the Constitution of the United States to declare that only human beings, not corporations, are endowed with constitutional rights, and further to ensure that the judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to be protected speech under the First Amendment.

SECTION 2: The City of Oxford supports education to increase public awareness of the threats to our democracy posed by corporate personhood and the doctrine of money as speech.

SECTION 3: The City of Oxford calls on our township, county, state and federal representatives to enact similar resolutions and legislation to advance this effort and directs the City Manager to send copies of this resolution to our elected representatives in these jurisdictions.