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ON EVE OF SENATE VOTE ON DEMOCRACY FOR ALL AMENDMENT, NEW REPORT HIGHLIGHTS REPUBLICAN SUPPORT ACROSS THE COUNTRY

More than 100 Republican Officials On Record Calling for Constitutional Amendment to Overturn Supreme Court's *Citizens United* Ruling

Austin, TX – As the United States Senate prepares to hold an historic vote on Monday, Sept. 8, on a proposed constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* ruling and allow for overall campaign spending limits, a new report shows increasing Republican support across the country for such an amendment.

Released by Free Speech For People, a national campaign at the forefront of the amendment movement, the report issued today highlights more than 100 Republican elected officials across the country who have gone on record calling on Congress to pass an amendment bill and send it to the states for ratification. Updated from an earlier version issued in June 2013, the report is the first compilation of Republican quotes and actions supporting this reform, demonstrating the growing bipartisan movement to undo the damage caused by *Citizens United* and related rulings and to reclaim our democracy.

[The report, entitled "Across the Aisle," is available here.](#)

"The pressing question before the nation today is whether it is 'we the people' or 'we the corporations and big money interests,'" says John Bonifaz, the Co-Founder and President of Free Speech For People. "As this report shows, this is not a Democratic issue or a Republican issue. This is a deeply American issue. Whatever our political differences may be, we share, across the political spectrum, the common vision of government of, for, and by the people."

In just four years since the Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United*, 16 states, more than 550 cities and towns, and more than 200 Members of Congress have called for a constitutional amendment to overturn the ruling. On Monday, September 8, 2014, the United States Senate will hold an historic vote on the [Democracy For All Amendment \(S.J. Res. 19\)](#), which would allow for overall campaign spending limits and would end the big money dominance of our elections. Fifty US Senators are already on record in support of the amendment.

The Across the Aisle report tracks the support of Republican officials in states considering legislative resolutions and sign-on letters to Congress in support of an amendment. The report also highlights key quotes from nationally prominent Republicans expressing opposition to the *Citizens United* ruling, including:

- Sen. John McCain (R-AZ): “I believe that history will show that the *Citizens United* decision by the United States Supreme Court was one of the worst in history saying that corporations are people and money is speech -- a violation of everything that I believe, certainly in the 20th century what we believed as far as financing of elections is concerned.”
- Former Rep. Jim Leach (R-IA): “Brazenly, in *Citizens United*, the court employed parallel logic to the syllogism embedded in the most repugnant ruling it ever made, the 1857 *Dred Scott* decision. To justify slavery, the court in *Dred Scott* defined a class of human beings as private property. To magnify corporate power a century and a half later, it defined a class of private property (corporations) as people...”
- Former Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME): Sen. Snowe says the unleashing of their attack ads has been a disservice to the candidates and the voters because they've dampened discussion of real issues. That's why Snowe says she'd endorse a future effort to repeal *Citizens United*. "It's ridiculing our process, it's ridiculing, frankly, the common sense, practicality and intelligence of the American people," Snowe says. "They expect better, should get better, deserve better.”
- Former Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX): Interviewer: “What did you make of Mitt Romney’s statement that corporations are people yesterday?”

Ron Paul: “Well obviously, they are not. People are individuals, they’re not groups and they’re not companies. Individuals have rights, they’re not collective. You can’t duck that. So individuals should be responsible for corporations, and they shouldn’t be a new creature so-to-speak. Rights and obligations should be always back to the individual.”

“As the November 2012 vote on a ballot initiative in my state of Montana demonstrated, Republicans, Democrats, and Independents alike are overwhelmingly united in support of a constitutional amendment which would restore democracy to the people,” says James Nelson, former Justice of the Montana Supreme Court and a member of Free Speech For People’s Legal Advisory Committee. “The nation is hungry for this debate on this critical issue of our time and that hunger is not confined to one end of the political spectrum.”

About Free Speech For People

Launched the day of the *Citizens United* decision, Free Speech For People is a national non-partisan organization which works to restore republican democracy to the people and to challenge the misuse of corporate power. The organization helps to lead the movement to amend the U.S. Constitution to overturn the Supreme Court’s rulings in *Citizens United v. FEC*, *McCutcheon v. FEC*, and *Buckley v. Valeo*, and to overturn the fabricated doctrine of corporate constitutional rights. The organization also engages in legal advocacy to advance a new jurisprudence in defense of our democracy. For more on Free Speech For People, visit: <http://www.freespeechforpeople.org>.