



Free Speech For People

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Analysis: America is Now One Quarter of the Way to Amending the Constitution to Overturn Citizens United

Montana and Colorado are the first states to endorse an amendment through statewide votes

WASHINGTON D.C. – Advocates are celebrating yesterday’s successful ballot measures in two states that have brought the campaign for a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court’s 2010 ruling Citizens United a quarter of the way to victory.

Both the Montana and Colorado initiatives passed by nearly three-to-one margins. While the last ballots are still being counted, the count so far in Montana stands at 74.9% to 25.1%; in Colorado the count so far is 73.8% to 26.2%

“We have now seen red states, blue states and swing states get behind this effort. In the middle of a rancorous election, these votes were a unifying and inspiring reminder of the deep level of public support for overruling Citizens United,” said Free Speech For People executive director John Bonifaz. “This is remarkable progress. We are ready to take this campaign to the next level.”

Article V of the U.S. Constitution says the Constitution can be amended by votes of two thirds of each chamber of Congress, followed by ratification by three quarters of the states. By each measure, support for an amendment has passed the 25% mark:

<i>Share required</i>	<i>Number required</i>	<i>As of Nov 7, 2012</i>	<i>%</i>
2/3 Senators	67	24 sponsors and supporters	36%
2/3 Representatives	290	73 sponsors and supporters	25%
3/4 States	38	11 official resolutions or calls for an amendment	29%

Seven of the other states -- Hawaii, New Mexico, Vermont, Rhode Island, California, Massachusetts, and New Jersey -- acted through their legislatures, which passed resolutions calling for an amendment; in two more, Connecticut and Maryland, majorities of the legislatures signed letters to Congress calling for an amendment.

More than 350 cities, towns, and counties, including New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Philadelphia have called for an amendment, and more than 2,000 elected officials nationwide are on record supporting one.

A 2010 Peter Hart poll found that 82% of Americans support Congressional action to limit corporate spending on elections (which Citizens United unleashed), and that 79% support a constitutional amendment to accomplish this. This past September, an Associated Press poll found that 83% of Americans favor limits on the amount of money corporations, unions, and other organizations can spend on our elections.

Public support is also bipartisan. The 2010 Peter Hart poll revealed that 68% of Republicans, 82% of independents, and 87% of Democrats support an amendment. The 2012 AP poll showed that 81% of Republicans, 78% of independents, and 85% of Democrats want to limit corporate, union, and other outside spending.

About Free Speech For People

Free Speech For People works to challenge the misuse of corporate power and restore republican democracy to the people. The group advances the movement to amend the U.S. Constitution to overturn Citizens United, an earlier case called Buckley v. Valeo, and the fabricated doctrine of corporate constitutional rights. For more on Free Speech For People, visit: www.freespeechforpeople.org.

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