

MAR 8 - 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING CONGRESS TO CONVENE A LIMITED NATIONAL CONVENTION
UNDER ARTICLE V OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION FOR THE
EXCLUSIVE PURPOSE OF PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED
STATES CONSTITUTION THAT WILL LIMIT THE INFLUENCE OF MONEY
IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS.

1 WHEREAS, the framers of the Constitution of the United
2 States of America intended that the United States Congress
3 should be "dependent on the people alone" (James Madison, The
4 Federalist No. 52); and

5
6 WHEREAS, many reasonable persons perceive that the intended
7 dependency on people alone has evolved into dependency on
8 powerful moneyed interests, through campaigns or third-party
9 groups, and that a fundamental imbalance in our representative
10 democracy now exists; and

11
12 WHEREAS, many Americans agree that elections in the United
13 States of America should be free from the disproportionate
14 influence of powerful moneyed interests and fair enough that any
15 citizen can be elected into office; and

16
17 WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution
18 requires Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments
19 to the federal Constitution on the application of two-thirds of
20 the legislatures of the several states; and

21
22 WHEREAS, article I, section 1, of the Constitution of the
23 State of Hawai'i states, "All political power of this State is
24 inherent in the people and the responsibility for the exercise
25 thereof rests with the people. All government is founded on
26 this authority."; and

27
28 WHEREAS, this body understands that a limited Article V
29 convention may be successful in restoring balance and integrity
30 to the elections process by proposing an amendment to the
31 federal Constitution that will permanently protect free and fair
32 elections in America by addressing, inter alia, issues raised by
33 the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States in



1 *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, 558 U.S. 310
2 (2010), and related cases and events, and desires that the
3 convention should be so limited; and
4

5 WHEREAS, as delegates to the national convention will need
6 to be selected by a process to be determined, this body desires
7 that the selection process require that the delegates to said
8 convention be comprised equally of individuals elected or
9 appointed to state or county office and of individuals not
10 holding elective or appointed office; provided that all
11 individuals elected or appointed to federal office, now or in
12 the past, be prohibited from serving as delegates to the
13 convention, as the State intends to retain the ability to
14 restrict or expand the power of its delegates within the limits
15 expressed herein; and
16

17 WHEREAS, this body intends that this measure be a
18 continuing application considered together with applications
19 calling for a convention passed in the 2013-2014 Vermont
20 Legislature as Joint Senate Resolution No. 27, the 2013-2014
21 California Legislature as Assembly Joint Resolution No. 1, the
22 98th Illinois General Assembly as Senate Joint Resolution 42,
23 the 2014-2015 New Jersey Legislature as Senate Concurrent
24 Resolution 132, the 2015-2016 Rhode Island Legislature as House
25 Resolution 7670 and Senate Resolution 2589, and other past,
26 pending, and future applications until such time as two-thirds
27 of the several states have applied for a convention for a
28 similar purpose and the national convention is convened by
29 Congress; now, therefore,
30

31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
32 of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2019, that the United
33 States Congress is urged to call a convention for the exclusive
34 purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the
35 United States of America that will limit the influence of money
36 in our electoral process, by overturning the decision of the
37 United States Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. Federal*
38 *Elections Commission* and related cases, as soon as two-thirds of
39 the several states have applied for a convention for a similar
40 purpose; and
41



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this application is for an
 2 Article V convention and does not grant Congress the authority
 3 to call a convention for any purpose other than for the sole
 4 purpose set forth in this measure, as soon as two-thirds of the
 5 several states have applied for a convention for a similar
 6 purpose; and
 7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body requests the
 9 cooperation of the states in issuing an application compelling
 10 Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments pursuant
 11 to Article V of the United States Constitution; and
 12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 14 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
 15 Vice President of the United States in his capacity as presiding
 16 officer of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United
 17 States House of Representatives, Minority Leader of the United
 18 States House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the
 19 United States Senate, each Senator and Representative from
 20 Hawai'i in the United States Congress, with the respectful
 21 request that the full and complete text of this Concurrent
 22 Resolution be printed in the Congressional Record, and to the
 23 presiding officers of each legislative body of each of the
 24 several states.
 25
 26
 27

Kal Rhoad

OFFERED BY:

Sen. Keith Ayon

DK

Ross E. R.

Mur

