



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3205/1
CMH:klm

2015 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 56

September 30, 2015 – Introduced by Senators C. LARSON, LASSA, L. TAYLOR and VINEHOUT, cosponsored by Representatives POPE, SARGENT, SUBECK, OHNSTAD, SINICKI, C. TAYLOR, HEBL, ZEPNICK, HINTZ, GOYKE, GENRICH and KAHL. Referred to Committee on Government Operations and Consumer Protection.

1 **Relating to:** Wisconsin Legislative Resolution to Restore Free and Fair Elections in
2 the United States.

3 Whereas, George Washington, the first president of the United States, stated,
4 “The basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and to alter their
5 Constitutions of Government”; and

6 Whereas, it was the stated intention of the framers of the Constitution of the
7 United States of America that the Congress of the United States of America should
8 be “dependent on the people alone” (James Madison, Federalist 52); and

9 Whereas, that dependency has evolved from a dependency on the people alone
10 to a dependency on those who spend excessively in elections, through campaigns, or
11 through third-party groups; and

12 Whereas, the United States Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal*
13 *Election Commission*, 558 U.S. 310 (2010), removed restrictions on amounts of
14 independent political spending; and

1 Whereas, the removal of those restrictions has resulted in the unjust influence
2 of powerful economic forces, which have supplanted the will of the people by
3 undermining our ability to choose our political leadership, write our own laws, and
4 determine the fate of our state; and

5 Whereas, Article V of the United States Constitution requires the United
6 States Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments upon application of
7 two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states for the purpose of proposing
8 amendments to the Constitution; and

9 Whereas, the State of Wisconsin sees the need for a convention to propose
10 amendments in order to address concerns such as those raised by the decision of the
11 United States Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*,
12 (2010) 130 S. Ct. 876, and related cases and events, including those occurring long
13 before or afterward or for a substantially similar purpose, and desires that said
14 convention should be so limited; and

15 Whereas, the State of Wisconsin desires that the delegates to said convention
16 shall be comprised equally of individuals currently elected to state and local office,
17 or be selected by election, in each congressional district for the purpose of serving as
18 delegates, though all individuals elected or appointed to federal office, now or in the
19 past, be prohibited from serving as delegates to the convention, and intends to retain
20 the ability to restrict or expand the power of its delegates within the limits expressed
21 above; and

22 Whereas, the State of Wisconsin intends that this be a continuing application
23 considered together with applications calling for a convention passed in the 2013–14
24 Vermont legislature as R454, the 2013–14 California legislature as Resolution
25 Chapter 77, the 98th Illinois General Assembly as Senate Joint Resolution No. 42,

1 the 2014-15 New Jersey legislature as SCR 132, and all other passed, pending, and
2 future applications, the aforementioned concerns of Wisconsin notwithstanding,
3 until such time as two-thirds of the several states have applied for a convention and
4 said convention is convened by Congress; now, therefore, be it

5 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the people of the
6 State of Wisconsin, speaking through its legislature, and pursuant to Article V of the
7 United States Constitution, hereby petition the United States Congress to call a
8 Convention for the purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution of the
9 United States of America as soon as two-thirds of the several states have applied for
10 a convention; and, be it further

11 ***Resolved, That*** the chief clerk of the Wisconsin Senate shall transmit copies
12 of this resolution to the president of the United States; the vice president of the
13 United States in his capacity as presiding officer of the United States Senate and
14 addressed to him at Suite S-212, U.S. Capitol Building, Washington, DC 20510; the
15 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; the minority leader of the
16 United States House of Representatives; the president pro tempore of the United
17 States Senate; each senator and representative from Wisconsin in the Congress of
18 the United States with the respectful request that the full and complete text of this
19 resolution be printed in the Congressional Record; the governor of each state; and the
20 presiding officers of each legislative body of each of the several states, requesting the
21 cooperation of the states in issuing an application compelling Congress to call a
22 convention for proposing amendments pursuant to Article V of the U.S. Constitution.

23 (END)