

# PassMass Amendment

## FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

- ***Why are you doing this?*** There are many reasons, but mainly to get the corrupting influence of large corporations and big money out of the political process. See a long list of reasons at [www.PassMassAmendment.org](http://www.PassMassAmendment.org)
- ***Didn't you do this last year?*** We did not get enough signatures to progress to the next step. If we don't get the signatures, we have to start from zero again the next year. We hope that we will have enough people this year that we don't need to do it again. Please help us get signatures.
- ***Is this about Citizens United?*** The Citizens United case is "Federal". What we are doing applies to Massachusetts. But we are concerned about large amounts of money from outside our borders influencing our local elections.
- ***Given Citizens United, won't the Supreme Court shoot down what you're doing?*** We can amend the Massachusetts Constitution and the Supreme Court would not get involved until a law was passed, someone sued, and it could then go to the Supreme Court. It would be the early 2020s before anything to do with our Amendment would make it to SCOTUS. By then, SCOTUS, would not consist of the same Justices.
- ***Will businesses still be able to hold contracts and own property?*** The only rights that a corporation has in Massachusetts are granted by the Legislature through the Massachusetts General Laws and their charter. We consider our Amendment to be a clarification, which changes no law. In the survey of 2,000 voters across the country, conducted by "Free Speech for People", and a similar survey of over 500 small businesses, it was determined that the vast majority of people from all parties believe that corporations have too much influence over our government. We believe that the framers of the Massachusetts Constitution did not intend for human rights to be afforded to corporate entities. A team of legal scholars, corporate and constitutional lawyers have developed language to clarify the Massachusetts Constitution in the form of an amendment.
- ***What about Unions?*** The largest perceived problem with Unions is their spending of money to influence elections. Limiting Union money in elections is covered by Section 2 of our language, which includes all people and "entities".
- ***Is this Move to Amend?*** No. Move to Amend is working on a Federal amendment. There are many different groups out there working on Federal Amendments. We feel that we are jumpstarting the process which will benefit all. Many people within Move to Amend are committed to helping our effort which includes the endorsement of Cape Cod MTA.
- ***Why bother if we don't know for sure if the "government" will let this happen?*** This is a DIRECT ACTION. It's like protesting, except we are guaranteed a Supreme Judicial Court hearing as to whether corporations have constitutional rights or not in Massachusetts and whether money is considered speech. When we gather the required signatures (68,911 certified) if we were to lose in the SJC, remember this, every signature over the 68,911 required, adds volume to the voice of the people, putting pressure on our Representatives in the Statehouse to act.
- ***Where can people find petitions?*** At the website there is a button for the current locations
- ***Can people download a petition form to help petition, sign themselves, and/or get a few of their friends to sign?*** Absolutely! Please see [www.PassMassAmendment.org](http://www.PassMassAmendment.org)
- ***How to help:***
  - Sign up for our email list - Action Alerts will follow
  - Contact your Legislators - Ask them to endorse PassMassAmendment
  - This is a true Grassroots effort - Volunteer your time
  - This is being run on a bare bones budget. No one gets paid – We use money for printing and office supplies