

PassMass Amendment

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) (2017)

- ***Why are we 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
- ***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 then got 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 have different 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, as the first step in making law to do things like GET BIG MONEY OUT of politics.
- ***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 helping to jumpstart the process which will benefit all. Many people within Move to Amend are committed to helping our effort which includes the endorsements of Cape Cod MTA and NorthShore 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. Further, we believe that this WILL work! We have THE RIGHT to amend our State Constitution via petition. We have the RIGHT to make law via petition.
- ***Why petition, if you have Legislative Bills in the Statehouse?*** Because we have enough experience to know that if we don't continue to build a network of petitioners, that this will never happen. AND because our legislative sponsors (see the list at the website) tell us that it helps them help us to get this to the floor, if the signatures increase.
- ***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
- ***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.
 - Donate. This is being run on a bare bones budget. No one gets paid - But we need money for printing and office supplies