

MAR 08 2019

SENATE CONCURRENT 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
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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
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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
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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
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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



1 federal Constitution that will permanently protect free and fair
2 elections in America by addressing, inter alia, issues raised by
3 the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States in
4 *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, 558 U.S. 310
5 (2010), and related cases and events, and desires that the
6 convention should be so limited; and
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8 WHEREAS, as delegates to the national convention will need
9 to be selected by a process to be determined, this body desires
10 that the selection process require that the delegates to said
11 convention be comprised equally of individuals elected or
12 appointed to state or county office and of individuals not
13 holding elective or appointed office; provided that all
14 individuals elected or appointed to federal office, now or in
15 the past, be prohibited from serving as delegates to the
16 convention, as the State intends to retain the ability to
17 restrict or expand the power of its delegates within the limits
18 expressed herein; and
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20 WHEREAS, this body intends that this measure be a
21 continuing application considered together with applications
22 calling for a convention passed in the 2013-2014 Vermont
23 Legislature as Joint Senate Resolution No. 27, the 2013-2014
24 California Legislature as Assembly Joint Resolution No. 1, the
25 98th Illinois General Assembly as Senate Joint Resolution 42,
26 the 2014-2015 New Jersey Legislature as Senate Concurrent
27 Resolution 132, the 2015-2016 Rhode Island Legislature as House
28 Resolution 7670 and Senate Resolution 2589, and other past,
29 pending, and future applications until such time as two-thirds
30 of the several states have applied for a convention for a
31 similar purpose and the national convention is convened by
32 Congress; now, therefore,
33

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



1 several states have applied for a convention for a similar
2 purpose; and

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

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

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

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