

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

Platform Committee

2/19/2015

RESOLUTION 2015.06

A resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

Relating to an Amendment Proposing Convention

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Democratic Party of Lane County, according to the DPLC Platform of 2014, to “support a constitutional amendment that mandates campaign finance limits in order to mitigate the disparities in political influence caused by wealth inequality, and which prohibits artificial entities from spending on political campaigns unless the entity is funded directly & solely by individuals for political purposes;” and

WHEREAS, the rights of the people to assemble to express their common political views and to spend reasonable amounts to communicate those views is fundamental to the process of democratic self-government; and

WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution requires Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments to the Constitution upon application of two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states, a process our Founders thought might become necessary if a recalcitrant Congress refuses to propose needed Constitutional amendments; and

WHEREAS, the Vermont, California, and Illinois legislatures have already passed applications to Congress for a convention to propose an amendment to deal with excessive money in elections; and

WHEREAS, House Joint Memorial 2 (HJM2) and Senate Joint Memorial 3 (SJM3), with the same words, have been introduced in the Oregon 2015 legislative session as a convention application; and

WHEREAS, Lane County Senators Edwards and Beyer and Representatives Hoyle, Barnhart, and Lively have joined as sponsors or co-sponsors of these Joint Memorials; and

WHEREAS, House Joint Memorial 6 (HJM 6) in the 2013 session called on Congress to send to the states for ratification an amendment “clarifying the distinction between the rights of natural persons and the rights of corporations and other legal entities” and stated that the amendment “should clarify that Congress and state legislatures may regulate all moneys raised and spent for political purposes”, and this memorial passed with the support of every Democrat in the state legislature; and

WHEREAS, House Joint Memorial 4 (HJM 4), another convention application with similar goals to HJM 2, has also been introduced in the 2015 legislative session.

THEREFORE, the Democratic Party of Lane County Resolves to urge our legislators to:

SECTION 1. Support an application for a convention to propose amendments, considering the best parts of HJM 2, HJM 4, and 2013’s HJM 6;

SECTION 2. Use HJM 2 as the basic template for the application, but amend it to broaden the problem description from “those who spend excessively in elections” to “excessive spending to influence government or political decisions”; to recognize that campaign finance limits should be targeted to level the political playing field; and to recognize that only organizations formed as people assembling to express jointly held political views should be able to spend money to further those views;

SECTION 3. Do what they can to limit the convention to proposing amendments that deal with the problems described in the findings above;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution will be sent to each Democratic legislator in the Lane County delegation.

**Resolved by the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Lane County,
Assembled in Eugene, Oregon, February 19, 2015.**

Signed:

X _____.

Chris Wig
Chair

X _____.

Celine Swenson-Harris
Secretary