



## **RESOLUTION 2012-12**

### **A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO OVERTURN THE CITIZENS UNITED DECISION BY ESTABLISHING THAT CORPORATIONS ARE NOT PEOPLE AND MONEY IS NOT SPEECH**

**WHEREAS**, it is at the local level of government that citizens experience the greatest level of involvement; and

**WHEREAS**, in the City of Trinidad, local elected officials see the opportunity of including the voice of citizens in the decision making process as an essential part of open government; and

**WHEREAS**, Trinidad City local elected officials accept the responsibility of transparency in government as demonstrated by our extensive public engagement processes and the requirements for elected officials at numerous levels to disclose of financial contributions; and

**WHEREAS**, involvement and transparency are essential to democracy at all levels of government; and

**WHEREAS**, the Citizens United v. FEC decision of the United States Supreme Court minimizes the strength and voice of the individual citizen in the political process; and

**WHEREAS**, the Citizens United v. FEC decision constrains the ability of federal, state and local governments to enact reasonable campaign finance reforms and regulations regarding corporate political activity; and

**WHEREAS**, several proposed amendments to the Constitution have been introduced in Congress that would allow governments to regulate the raising and spending of money by corporations to influence elections, including but not limited to House Joint Resolution 90<sup>1</sup> and Senate Joint Resolution 33<sup>2</sup>; and the State of California<sup>3</sup> and more than 30 California municipalities have passed resolutions calling on Congress to act against corporate personhood<sup>4</sup>;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Trinidad City Council urges support for maintaining an open and engaged forum for citizen voices at the local level; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED**, that the Trinidad City Council opposes the Supreme Court's interpretation of the Constitution in Citizens United regarding the constitutional rights of corporations, and supports amending the Constitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the entirety of protections or "rights" of natural persons. The Trinidad City Council also supports amending the Constitution to provide that the expenditure of money by any person or entity to influence the electoral process is no longer a form of constitutionally protected speech, and calls on the Congress of the United States to begin the process of amending the Constitution.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL** of Humboldt County of the State of California this 12<sup>th</sup> day of SEPTEMBER, 2012.

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I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Trinidad City Council by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

**Attest:**

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**Gabriel Adams**  
Trinidad City Clerk

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**Kathy Bhardwaj**  
Mayor