



General Assembly

**Senate Joint
Resolution No. 33**

February Session, 2016

LCO No. 2085



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

**RESOLUTION PETITIONING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO
CONVENE AN ARTICLE V CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION TO
OVERTURN THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT'S DECISION IN
CITIZENS UNITED V. FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 WHEREAS, the first President of the United States, George
2 Washington, stated, "The basis of our political systems is the right of
3 the people to make and to alter their Constitutions of Government.";
4 and

5 WHEREAS, it was the stated intention of the framers of the
6 Constitution of the United States of America that the Congress of the
7 United States of America should be "dependent on the people alone"
8 (The Federalist No. 52, James Madison); and

9 WHEREAS, that dependency has evolved from a dependency on
10 the people alone to a dependency on those who spend excessively in
11 elections, through campaigns or third-party groups; and

12 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court ruling in Citizens

13 United v. Federal Election Commission, 558 U.S. 310 (2010) removed
14 restrictions on amounts of independent political spending; and

15 WHEREAS, the removal of these restrictions has resulted in the
16 unjust influence of powerful economic forces, which have supplanted
17 the will of the people by undermining the people's ability to choose
18 political leadership, write laws and determine the fate of the
19 government; and

20 WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution requires the
21 United States Congress to call a convention, upon application of the
22 legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, for the purpose of
23 proposing amendments to the United States Constitution; and

24 WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut sees the need for a convention
25 to propose amendments in order to address concerns such as those
26 raised by the decision of the United States Supreme Court in Citizens
27 United v. Federal Election Commission and related cases and events,
28 including those occurring long before or afterward or for a
29 substantially similar purpose, and desires that said convention should
30 be so limited; and

31 WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut desires that the delegates to
32 said convention shall be comprised equally of individuals currently
33 elected to state and local office, or be selected by election, in each
34 Congressional district for the purpose of serving as delegates, though
35 all individuals elected or appointed to federal office, now or in the
36 past, be prohibited from serving as delegates to the convention and
37 intends to retain the ability to restrict or expand the power of its
38 delegates within the limits expressed above; and

39 WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut intends that this be a
40 continuing application considered together with applications calling
41 for a convention passed in the 2013-2014 Vermont legislature as R454,
42 the 2013-2014 California legislature as Resolution Chapter 77, the 2013-
43 2014 Illinois legislature as Senate Joint Resolution No. 42 and all other

44 similar passed, pending and future applications, the aforementioned
45 concerns of Connecticut notwithstanding until such time as two-thirds
46 of the several states have applied for a convention and said convention
47 is convened by Congress.

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the people of the State
49 of Connecticut speaking through its legislature, and pursuant to
50 Article V of the United States Constitution, hereby petitions the United
51 States Congress to call a convention for the purpose of proposing
52 amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America as
53 soon as two-thirds of the several states have applied for a convention;
54 and

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerks of the House of
56 Representatives and the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the
57 President of the United States; the Vice President of the United States
58 in his capacity as presiding officer of the United States Senate and
59 addressed to him at the office he maintains in the United States Capitol
60 Building; the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,
61 the Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the
62 President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, each Senator and
63 Representative from Connecticut in the Congress of the United States
64 with the respectful request that the full and complete text of this
65 resolution be printed in the Congressional Record; and the Governor
66 of each state and the presiding officers of each legislative body of each
67 of the several states, requesting the cooperation of the states in issuing
68 an application compelling Congress to call a convention for proposing
69 amendments pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution.

Statement of Purpose:

To petition Congress to convene a constitutional convention of limited scope to address concerns raised by and overturn Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission and related cases.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

