
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 317 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY WAXMAN, MADDEN, FREEMAN, KINKEAD, T. DAVIS,
D. WILLIAMS, SANCHEZ, McNEILL, BRENNAN, KENYATTA, SCHWEYER,
SAMUELSON, KIM AND SIEGEL, FEBRUARY 7, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 7, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting an amendment to the Constitution of the United States
2 to establish that election spending may be regulated to
3 ensure that every resident may exercise the rights to free
4 speech, political participation and meaningful
5 representation, and to protect republican self-government and
6 federalism.

7 WHEREAS, We the People have a compelling interest in
8 fostering robust political debate and self-government, securing
9 the liberty and political equality of our residents, guarding
10 against corruption and advancing federalism and the interests of
11 the several states; and

12 WHEREAS, Over the past few decades, the Supreme Court has
13 gradually come to equate election spending with "free speech";
14 and

15 WHEREAS, This spending has the potential to drown out speech
16 rights for all residents, narrow debate, weaken federalism and
17 self-governance in the states and increase the risk of systemic
18 corruption; and

19 WHEREAS, The states and Congress should have the ability to

1 enact reasonable regulations regarding this spending; and

2 WHEREAS, The framers wisely granted the states ultimate power
3 to amend our Constitution where necessary to make it and our
4 union ever more perfect and to protect and preserve self-
5 government and liberty; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
7 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania support an amendment to the
8 Constitution of the United States to establish that election
9 spending may be regulated to ensure that every resident may
10 exercise the rights to free speech, political participation and
11 meaningful representation, and to protect republican self-
12 government and federalism; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the people of Pennsylvania hereby call upon
14 the United States Congress to propose and send to the states for
15 ratification a Constitutional amendment to clarify that states
16 may regulate the spending of money to influence elections in the
17 states and that Congress may regulate the spending of money to
18 influence Federal elections, and that in doing so the states and
19 Congress may distinguish between natural persons and legally
20 recognized entities; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared and
22 submitted to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
23 the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
24 the United States House of Representatives, the Minority Leader
25 of the United States House of Representatives and to each member
26 of Congress from Pennsylvania.