



## ACTION ALERT!

We have just been informed the Massachusetts Senate is voting on [SB 772](#) - A Resolution to Restore Free Speech this afternoon. **Please call your senator's office immediately and ask that they support this bill! Click [here](#) to find your senator.**

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts has for many years definitively opposed major threats to the basic constitutional rights of individuals and has a goal to improve methods of financing political campaigns that will ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process. LWVMA is concerned that the Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission will have significant, negative consequences in all these areas of polity. We have seen the resulting media blitz following the massive influx of funds into the 2010 elections and the mushrooming effect on the current presidential primaries have only magnified our concern.

Here's LWVMA's revised position on SB 772:

At its national convention in June, the League of Women Voters passed a resolution on campaign finance reform that included the consideration of an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to address the negative impact of the 2010 Citizens United v Federal Election Commission Supreme Court decision on our elections and to regulate the financing of political campaigns.

While the LWV will continue to work toward statutory remedies such as the DISCLOSE Act, the decision to include the possibility of a Constitutional amendment in response to the Citizens United decision recognizes that Supreme Court decisions take precedence over statutory enactments. The decision also recognizes the reality that there are only two ways a Supreme Court decision can be overturned: reversal of a decision by the Supreme Court Justices or through the Constitutional amendment process.

In light of the adoption of the resolution at the 2012 LWVUS Convention, the Massachusetts League has resumed its support for SB 772, a resolution asking the Massachusetts legislature to direct Congress to develop a Constitutional amendment to restore the First Amendment and fair elections to the people. The LWV Massachusetts board voted to resume working with other organizations on this and other campaign finance issues, and encourages local Leagues to work on campaign finance reform, including local efforts calling for an amendment to overturn the Citizens United decision.

The resolution approved at the LWVUS convention states: We, the representatives of local and state Leagues assembled at the 2012 LWVUS Convention, call upon the LWVUS Board to advocate strongly for all appropriate, duly-considered measures which may include, but are not limited to, a constitutional amendment and which:

- are consistent with our current positions on campaign finance reform and individual liberties;
- allow Congress and the States to set reasonable regulations on campaign contributions and expenditures;
- and ensure that elections are determined by the voters.

The final national resolution was based on one drafted and submitted by three Massachusetts local Leagues: Concord-Carlisle, Amherst and Sudbury.