

# Senate Joint Resolution 6 - Introduced

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 6  
BY KINNEY

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution requesting the calling of a constitutional  
2 convention for the exclusive purpose of proposing an  
3 amendment to the United States Constitution that will  
4 restore balance and integrity to our elections.  
5 WHEREAS, the framers of the Constitution of the United  
6 States of America intended that the Congress of the United  
7 States of America should be "dependent on the people alone", as  
8 James Madison wrote in Federalist number 52; and  
9 WHEREAS, that dependency has evolved from a dependency on  
10 the people alone to a dependency on powerful special interests,  
11 through campaigns or third-party groups, that has created a  
12 fundamental imbalance in our representative democracy; and  
13 WHEREAS, Americans across the political spectrum agree that  
14 elections in the United States of America should be free from  
15 the disproportional influence of special interests and fair  
16 enough that any citizen can be elected into office; and  
17 WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Iowa states: "All  
18 political power is inherent in the people. Government is  
19 instituted for the protection, security, and benefit of the  
20 people, and they have the right, at all times, to alter or  
21 reform the same, whenever the public good may require it."; and  
22 WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution of the United States  
23 requires Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments  
24 to the Constitution of the United States on the application of  
25 two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states; and  
26 WHEREAS, the general assembly perceives the need for a  
27 constitutional convention to restore balance and integrity to  
28 our elections by proposing an amendment to the Constitution of  
29 the United States that will permanently protect free and fair  
30 elections in America by addressing, among other things, issues  
31 raised by the decisions of the United States supreme court in

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32 Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, 558 U.S. 310  
33 (2010), and related cases and events, and desires that said  
34 convention should be so limited; and

35 WHEREAS, the state of Iowa desires that the delegates to said  
36 convention shall be comprised equally of individuals currently  
37 elected to state and local office, or be selected by election,  
38 in each congressional district for the purpose of serving as  
39 delegates, though all individuals elected or appointed to  
40 federal office, now or in the past, be prohibited from serving  
41 as delegates to the convention, and intends to retain the  
42 ability to restrict or expand the power of its delegates within  
43 the limits expressed herein; and

44 WHEREAS, the state of Iowa intends that this be a continuing  
45 application considered together with applications calling for a  
46 convention passed in the 2013-2014 Vermont legislature as R454,  
47 the 2013-2014 California legislature as resolution chapter 77,  
48 the 98th Illinois general assembly as senate joint resolution  
49 42, the 2014-2015 New Jersey legislature as senate concurrent  
50 resolution 132, the 2015-2016 Rhode Island legislature as house  
51 resolution 7670 and senate resolution 2589, and all other  
52 passed, pending, and future applications until such time as  
53 two-thirds of the several states have applied for a convention  
54 for a similar purpose and said convention is convened by  
55 Congress; NOW THEREFORE,

56 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 That the general assembly, as the legislature of the state of  
2 Iowa, pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United  
3 States, hereby applies to the United States Congress to call a  
4 convention for the exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment  
5 to the Constitution of the United States that will restore free  
6 and fair elections as described herein, as soon as two-thirds  
7 of the several states have applied for a convention for a  
8 similar purpose.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of the Iowa senate  
10 transmit copies of this resolution to the president of the  
11 United States; the vice president of the United States in his  
12 capacity as presiding officer of the United States senate,  
13 the speaker of the United States house of representatives, the  
14 minority leader of the United States house of representatives,  
15 the president pro tempore of the United States senate, to  
16 each senator and representative from Iowa in the Congress  
17 of the United States with the respectful request that the  
18 full and complete text of this resolution be printed in the  
19 congressional record, and to the presiding officers of each  
20 legislative body of each of the several states, requesting the  
21 cooperation of the states in issuing an application compelling  
22 Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments pursuant  
23 to Article V of the Constitution of the United States.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this application constitutes  
25 a continuing application in accordance with article v of the  
26 constitution of the United States until the legislatures of at  
27 least two-thirds of the several states have made applications  
28 on the same subject.

29

EXPLANATION

30 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
31 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

32 This joint resolution constitutes a petition requesting the  
33 United States Congress to call a constitutional convention  
34 for the exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the  
35 Constitution of the United States responding to the United

1 States supreme court's decision in Citizens United v. Federal  
2 Election Commission and relating to election fairness and  
3 corporate political speech and submit it to the states for  
4 ratification.

5 The joint resolution calls for the convention to be  
6 comprised equally of individuals currently elected to state and  
7 local office, or be selected by election, in each congressional  
8 district for the purpose of serving as delegates. The joint  
9 resolution prohibits all individuals who have ever been elected  
10 or appointed to federal office from serving as delegates. The  
11 joint resolution reserves to the state of Iowa the ability to  
12 restrict or expand the power of its delegates.

13 The joint resolution also provides that it shall serve as  
14 a continuing application to call a constitutional convention,  
15 until at least two-thirds of the legislatures of the several  
16 states have made application for a similar convention and the  
17 convention is convened by Congress.

18 The joint resolution provides that it shall serve as a  
19 continuing application to call a constitutional convention  
20 until at least two-thirds of the legislatures of the several  
21 states have made applications on the same subject.

22 The joint resolution also requires that the secretary of  
23 the Iowa senate transmit copies of this resolution to the  
24 president of the United States, the vice president of the  
25 United States in his capacity as presiding officer of the  
26 United States senate, the speaker of the United States house of  
27 representatives, the minority leader of the United States house  
28 of representatives, the president pro tempore of the United  
29 States senate, to each senator and representative from Iowa in  
30 the Congress of the United States with the request that the  
31 complete text of the resolution be printed in the congressional  
32 record, and to the presiding officers of each legislative body  
33 of each of the several states, requesting the cooperation of  
34 the states in issuing an application compelling Congress to  
35 call a convention for proposing amendments pursuant to Article

S.J.R. 6

1 V of the Constitution of the United States.