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BILL STATEMENT FOR AJR 42/SJR 38 REFERENDUM ON *CITIZENS UNITED v. FEC*

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin SUPPORTS AJR 42/SJR 38. This joint resolution represents an [advisory referendum](#) to be placed on the Wisconsin November 2026 ballot asking Wisconsin voters whether Congress should propose an amendment to overturn the 2010 pivotal Supreme Court decision of *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* that resulted in exorbitant spending on political campaigns at all levels in our country and doing away with virtually all limitations on campaign spending.

This joint resolution aligns with the US League of Women Voters position on “money in politics” which advocates for campaign finance regulation that “should enhance political equality for all citizens” and supports “public financing, full disclosure, abolishing SuperPACs, and creating an effective enforcement agency.”

The Supreme Court’s 2010 landmark decision of [Citizens United v. FEC](#) expanded the interpretation of the First Amendment, freedom of speech, to apply to corporations as it does to individuals and defined money as speech, thus, serving to eliminate the many restrictions on campaign financing that were established over the last century. It also paved the way for a few wealthy donors to suppress the voices of average voters by injecting enormous amounts of [dark money](#) (legally undisclosed) into political campaigns such that it is virtually impossible to trace the identities of donors. Typically, dark money has been used to pay for advertising; however, in 2024, outside groups also engaged in get-out-the-vote activities for campaigns; thus, encouraging even stronger possible quid pro quo relationships among wealthy donors and candidates—and even voters.

Currently [22 states and hundreds of cities](#) have passed similar resolutions for Congress to propose such an amendment; 38 states are needed for Congress to proceed. All voters should have a louder voice than the dark money of a few wealthy individuals or Super PACS. Let’s make Wisconsin the 23rd state to approve the resolution calling on Congress to overturn *Citizens United*.