

**2015 -- H 5621**

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LC001307  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015**

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**H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N**

**RESPECTFULLY URGING CONGRESS TO RESTORE FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS IN  
THE UNITED STATES**

Introduced By: Representatives Handy, Keable, Ajello, O`Grady, and Blazejewski

Date Introduced: February 25, 2015

Referred To: House Judiciary

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

4           WHEREAS, It was the stated intention of the framers of the Constitution of the United  
5 States of America that the Congress of the United States of America should be "dependent on the  
6 people alone." (James Madison, Federalist 52); and

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

10           WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court ruling in Citizens United v. Federal  
11 Election Commission, 558 U.S. 310 (2010) removed restrictions on amounts of independent  
12 political spending; and

13           WHEREAS, The removal of those restrictions has resulted in the unjust influence of  
14 powerful economic forces, which have supplanted the will of the people by undermining our  
15 ability to choose our political leadership, write our own laws, and determine the fate of our state;  
16 and

17           WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution requires the United States  
18 Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments upon application of two-thirds of the  
19 legislatures of the several states for the purpose of proposing amendments to the United States

1 Constitution; now, therefore be it

2           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
3 Providence Plantations hereby sees the need for a convention to propose amendments in order to  
4 address concerns such as those raised by the decision of the United States Supreme Court in  
5 Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission and related cases and events including those  
6 occurring long before or afterward or for a substantially similar purpose, and desires that said  
7 convention should be so limited; and be it further

8           RESOLVED, That this House hereby respectfully requests that the delegates to said  
9 convention be comprised equally of individuals currently elected to state and local office, or be  
10 selected by election, in each Congressional district for the purpose of serving as delegates, though  
11 all individuals elected or appointed to federal office, now or in the past, be prohibited from  
12 serving as delegates to the Convention, and furthermore requests the ability to restrict or expand  
13 the power of its delegates within the limits expressed above; and be it further

14           RESOLVED, That this House hereby intends that this be a continuing application  
15 considered together with applications calling for a convention passed in the 2013-2014 Vermont  
16 legislature as R454, the 2013-2014 California legislature as Resolution Chapter 77, the 2013-  
17 2014 Illinois legislature as Senate Joint Resolution No. 42, and all other passed, pending, and  
18 future applications, the aforementioned concerns of Rhode Island notwithstanding until such time  
19 as two-thirds of the several states have applied for a Convention and said Convention is convened  
20 by Congress; and be it further

21           RESOLVED, That the citizenry of the State of Rhode Island, speaking through this  
22 House of Representatives, and pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution, hereby  
23 petitions the United States Congress to call a Convention for the purpose of proposing  
24 Amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America as soon as two-thirds of the  
25 several states have applied for a Convention; and be it further

26           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
27 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the President of the United States; the Vice  
28 President of the United States in his capacity as President of the United States Senate and  
29 addressed to him at the office he maintains in the United States Capitol; the Speaker of the United  
30 States House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the United States House of  
31 Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, and the Rhode Island  
32 Congressional Delegation.

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