

SENATE No. 9

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul W. Mark

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying proposal for constitutional amendment:

Proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to campaign finance reform.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Paul W. Mark

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire

SENATE No. 9

By Mr. Mark, a petition (accompanied by proposal, Senate, No. 9) of Paul W. Mark for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to campaign finance reform. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

Proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to campaign finance reform.

A majority of all the members elected to the Senate and House of Representatives, in joint session, hereby declares it to be expedient to alter the Constitution by the adoption of the following Article of Amendment, to the end that it may become a part of the Constitution [if similarly agreed to in a joint session of the next General Court and approved by the people at the state election next following]:

ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

1 SECTION 1. Corporations are not people and may be regulated. The rights afforded to
2 the human inhabitants of this Commonwealth, under this Constitution, are not applicable to any
3 corporation, corporate entity, or artificial person. Any references to persons, citizens, inhabitants,
4 subjects, men, women, people, individuals, or like terms in this Constitution are not to be
5 construed in any way to be referring to a corporation, corporate entity, or artificial person. All
6 corporations, corporate entities, or artificial persons shall do business in Massachusetts under the
7 regulation of laws passed by the Massachusetts General Court, which shall set the rights of such
8 entities to do business to promote the common good and strengthen the social compact of this
9 Commonwealth.

10 SECTION 2. The Massachusetts General Court may regulate and set reasonable limits on
11 all political contributions and expenditures, to ensure that all individuals, regardless of their
12 economic status, have access to the political process and that no individual gains more access or
13 ability to influence in any way, the election of any candidate for public office, or any ballot
14 measure. The Massachusetts General Court shall require that any and all permissible
15 contributions and expenditures, including late donations, be publicly disclosed, in a timely
16 manner, for the purpose of informing the people, before any vote is held.

17 SECTION 3. Nothing contained in this Amendment shall be construed to abridge the
18 freedom of the press.