

THE “FIX IT AMERICA” AMENDMENT TO U.S. CONSTITUTION

THE “FIX IT AMERICA” AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION, HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 10,

sponsored by Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino and Reps. Linda Trujillo & James Smith, takes a simple and practical approach to two critical issues that undermine a healthy democracy: (1) the negative impacts to all U.S. citizens from the heavy influence of money spent in our elections and governance and (2) the potential for manipulation of election outcomes by drawing electoral district lines that unduly favor or disfavor a political party and/or interests of its citizens.

Common Cause New Mexico is supporting a memorial that asks Congress to pass an amendment with the following language to the U.S. Constitution:

Section I. Congress and State Legislatures shall regulate the role of money in elections and governance to ensure transparency, prevent corruption, and protect against the buying of access to or influence over representatives. No such regulation shall be deemed in violation of freedom of speech rights in the Constitution of the United States or its Amendments.

Section II. Legislative districts or districting plans shall not intentionally or unduly favor or disfavor any political party.

Why?

In 2012, New Mexico became the second state in the nation to call on Congress to overturn the disastrous Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens United* that opened the floodgates to unlimited contributions to faceless groups that spend billions to influence our elections. Since then, another 18 states and 700+ localities have joined the call, but no action has been taken by Congress to respond.

“Fix it America” takes these calls a few steps further by directly calling upon Congress to amend the US Constitution with specific and carefully drafted language to address the exponential influence of the increasing sums of money now spent in our elections, and to end partisan gerrymandering. Both of these issues are currently crippling our democracy, and we are working to gather the support from states across the country to make it possible for **all** of us to move forward and fix this broken system!

Common Cause New Mexico is a nonpartisan grassroots organization dedicated to upholding the core values of American democracy. It works to create open, honest, and accountable government that serves the public interest; promote equal rights, opportunity, and representation for all; and to empower all people to make their voices heard as equals in the political process.

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