

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 132**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
216th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED AUGUST 11, 2014

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Senator BRIAN P. STACK

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblyman TIM EUSTACE

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Senator Gill, Assemblymen Singleton, Diegnan, Gusciora,
Assemblywoman Watson Coleman, Assemblymen McKeon, Wimberly,
Caputo, Johnson, Assemblywoman Jasey, Assemblyman Chivukula,
Assemblywomen Jimenez, Quijano, Assemblyman Coughlin,
Assemblywomen Tucker, Sumter, Assemblymen Garcia, Giblin,
Assemblywoman Oliver, Assemblyman Burzichelli, Assemblywoman
Pinkin and Assemblyman Danielsen**

SYNOPSIS

Applies to Congress for limited constitutional convention to limit corrupting influence of money in politics and overturn Citizens United decision and related cases.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/24/2015)

SCR132 GREENSTEIN, STACK

2

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** applying to the Congress of the
2 United States for the calling of a convention for the limited
3 purpose of addressing concerns raised by the decision of the
4 United States Supreme Court in the case of *Citizens United v.*
5 *Federal Elections Commission* and related cases.
6
7 **WHEREAS**, Elections should be free of the corrupting influence of
8 excessive spending by outside interests and fair enough that any
9 citizen can run for public office; and
10 **WHEREAS**, Numerous United States Supreme Court decisions have
11 frustrated the will of the American people by eroding our ability to
12 choose our political leadership, write our laws, and determine the
13 fate of our country; and
14 **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey General Assembly and the New Jersey
15 State Senate passed Assembly Resolution No. 86 and Senate
16 Resolution No. 47, respectively, in the 2012-2013 legislative
17 session; and
18 **WHEREAS**, Those resolutions expressed the Legislature’s “strong
19 opposition to [the] U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United*
20 *v. Federal Elections Commission* [and called] upon [the] Congress
21 of the United States to propose amending [the] U.S. Constitution”
22 to overturn that decision; and
23 **WHEREAS**, Congress has failed to propose, pursuant to Article V of
24 the United States Constitution, amendments thereto that would
25 adequately address the concerns expressed in Assembly Resolution
26 No. 86 and Senate Resolution No. 47; and
27 **WHEREAS**, Article V of the United States Constitution also requires
28 Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments thereto
29 upon application by two-thirds of the legislatures of the several
30 states; and
31 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey believes that there is a great need
32 for a convention to propose amendments to the Constitution to
33 address the concerns raised by citizens opposed to the decision of
34 the Supreme Court in *Citizens United* and related cases, and
35 believes that such a convention must be limited solely, specifically,
36 and exclusively to addressing those concerns; and
37 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey believes that the delegates to such
38 a convention should be selected equally from individuals currently
39 holding State or local office, or selected by election from each
40 Congressional district for the purpose of serving as delegates,
41 though past or present holders of federal elective office should be
42 prohibited from serving as convention delegates, and the State
43 should retain the ability to restrict or expand the power of its
44 delegates within the limits noted above; and
45 **WHEREAS**, The State of New Jersey intends that this be a
46 continuing application considered together with all other
47 applications calling for a convention currently pending in other
48 state legislatures, and all other passed, pending, and future

1 applications with the aforementioned concerns until two-thirds of
2 the several states have applied for a convention and it is
3 convened by Congress; now, therefore,

4

5 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the
6 General Assembly concurring):

7

8 1. The Legislature of the State of New Jersey makes
9 application to the Congress of the United States for a convention to
10 be called under Article V of the Constitution of the United States of
11 America for the sole, specific and exclusive purpose of proposing
12 amendments to the Constitution of the United States that would
13 limit the corrupting influence of money in our political system
14 including overturning the decision of the United States Supreme
15 Court in the case of *Citizens United v. Federal Elections*
16 *Commission* and related cases.

17

18 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
19 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
20 Secretary of the Senate to the President and Vice President of the
21 United States, the Speaker of the United States House of
22 Representatives, the Minority Leader of the United States House of
23 Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the United States
24 Senate, each Senator and Representative from New Jersey in the
25 Congress of the United States, the Archivist of the United States
26 and the respective clerks of the United States House of
27 Representatives and the United States Senate requesting that they
28 record this application in the published tally of state petitions for a
29 convention of the states under Article V of the United States
30 Constitution, the Governor of each state, and the presiding officer
31 of each house of each state legislature in the United States.

32

33

34

STATEMENT

35

36 This concurrent resolution makes application to the Congress of
37 the United States of America for a convention to be called under
38 Article V of the Constitution of the United States for the sole,
39 specific and exclusive purpose of proposing amendments to the
40 Constitution of the United States that would limit the corrupting
41 influence of money in our political system including by overturning
42 the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the case of
43 *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission* and related cases.

44 The resolution provides that copies of the resolution are to be
45 transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the President and Vice
46 President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States
47 House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the United States
48 House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the United

SCR132 GREENSTEIN, STACK

4

1 States Senate, each Senator and Representative from New Jersey in
2 the Congress of the United States, the Archivist of the United States
3 and the respective clerks of the United States House of
4 Representatives and the United States Senate requesting that they
5 record this application in the published tally of state petitions for a
6 convention of the states under Article V of the United States
7 Constitution, the Governor of each state, and the presiding officer
8 of each house of each state legislature in the United States.