

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

Relating to an application to Congress for the calling of an Article V convention of states to propose certain amendments to the United States Constitution which regulate elections.

Whereas, the framers of the Constitution of the United States of America intended that the Congress of the United States of America should be "dependent on the people alone" (James Madison, Federalist 52); and

Whereas, that dependency has evolved from a dependency on the people alone to a dependency on powerful special interests, through campaigns or third-party groups, that have created a fundamental imbalance in our representative democracy; and

Whereas, Americans across the political spectrum agree that elections in the United States of America should be free from the disproportional influence of special interests and fair enough that any citizen can be elected into office; and

Whereas, the Constitution of the State of Missouri states "that all political power is vested in and derived from the people; that all government of right originates from the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole" and the people have the exclusive right to alter their constitutions of government whenever they deem it necessary (Article I, Sections 1 & 3); and

Whereas, Article V of the United States Constitution requires Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments to the federal Constitution on the application of two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states; and

Whereas, the Missouri General Assembly perceives the need for an amendments convention in order to propose an amendment to the federal Constitution that will permanently protect free and fair elections in America by ensuring balance, integrity, and transparency to our national system of campaign finance, and desires that said convention be limited to that purpose; and

Whereas, a national convention would give us an opportunity to come together, as a nation, to discuss solutions on how to ensure the integrity of our elections, and renew the American people's trust in government; and

Whereas, Article V clearly states that any amendment, whether proposed by Congress or by convention, must be ratified by three-fourths of the states, ensuring that only the most reasonable proposals with widespread support become part of our Constitution; and

Whereas, the State of Missouri desires that the delegates to said convention shall be comprised equally of individuals currently elected to state and local office, or be selected by election, in each Congressional district for the purpose of serving as delegates, though all individuals elected or appointed to federal office, now or in the past, be prohibited from serving as delegates to the convention, and intends to retain the ability to enforce the responsibility and conduct of its delegates within the limits expressed herein; and

Whereas, the State of Missouri intends that this be a continuing application considered together with applications calling for a convention passed in the 2013-2014 Vermont legislature as R454, the 2013-2014 California legislature as Resolution Chapter 77, the 98th Illinois General Assembly as SJR 42, the 2014-2015 New Jersey legislature as SCR 132, the 2015-2016 Rhode Island legislature as HR 7670 and SR 2589, and all other passed, pending, and future applications until such time as two-thirds of the several states have applied for a convention for a similar purpose and said convention is convened by Congress:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, One-hundredth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby apply to the United States Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution for the calling of a convention of the states for the exclusive and limited purpose of proposing an amendment to the United States Constitution that will permanently protect fair elections as described herein by ensuring balance, integrity and transparency to our national system of campaign finance, as soon as two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states have applied for a convention for a similar purpose; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States; the Vice President of the United States in his capacity as presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, to each Senator and Representative from Missouri in the Congress of the United States with the respectful request that the full and complete text of this resolution be printed in the Congressional Record, to the presiding officers of each legislative body of each of the several states, requesting the cooperation of the states in issuing an application compelling Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments pursuant to Article V of the U.S. Constitution.