

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 78

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to set limits on Federal campaign contributions and spending, prohibit corporate spending in the political process, require Congress to develop a system of public campaign financing for all Federal candidates who qualify for the ballot, and allow the States to set reasonable limits on campaign contributions and spending in State and local elections, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 22, 2023

Mr. MCGOVERN submitted the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to set limits on Federal campaign contributions and spending, prohibit corporate spending in the political process, require Congress to develop a system of public campaign financing for all Federal candidates who qualify for the ballot, and allow the States to set reasonable limits on campaign contributions and spending in State and local elections, and for other purposes.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled*
3 *(two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the fol-*

1 lowing article is proposed as an amendment to the Con-
2 stitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all
3 intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when
4 ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several
5 States:

6 “ARTICLE —

7 “SECTION 1. To advance democratic self-government
8 and political equality, and to protect the integrity of gov-
9 ernment and the electoral process, the right of citizens of
10 the United States to vote in elections in which campaign
11 contributions and spending are subject to enforceable lim-
12 its as set forth in this article, shall not be abridged by
13 the United States.

14 “SECTION 2. In any calendar year, no person may
15 spend or contribute more than one hundred dollars for the
16 purpose of influencing any other person’s election for the
17 office of Representative, Senator, President, or Vice Presi-
18 dent; nor spend for the purpose of influencing elections,
19 including such person’s own election, for the offices of
20 Representative, Senator, President, or Vice President, or
21 contribute to candidates for such offices, their campaigns,
22 or political parties, more than an aggregate total of one
23 thousand dollars; provided that Congress may by law pre-
24 scribe lower limits and may periodically increase the

1 amounts set forth in this section, but only to the extent
2 required by changes in the value of money.

3 “SECTION 3. No corporation or other entity created
4 by law shall contribute or spend any amount for the pur-
5 pose of influencing any election for the office of Represent-
6 ative, Senator, the President, or the Vice President; but
7 a political party or candidate’s campaign may spend the
8 amounts prescribed by law.

9 “SECTION 4. Not later than sixty days after the rati-
10 fication of this article, Congress shall enact legislation as
11 follows:

12 “To limit the amounts that candidates, their cam-
13 paigns for the offices of Representative, Senator, Presi-
14 dent, or Vice President, and political parties may spend
15 on such candidacies.

16 “To provide public funding for all candidates who
17 qualify for any primary, general, or special election ballot
18 for Representative, Senator, President, or Vice President
19 in any State or in the District constituting the seat of
20 Government of the United States, equaling at least eighty
21 percent of the amount that may be spent; but for can-
22 didates for President or Vice President, Congress shall
23 prescribe by law the manner in which such amount shall
24 be apportioned based on the States or District wherein
25 such person qualifies.

1 “To require disposition to the Treasury of any
2 unspent campaign funds after each election, without com-
3 pensation.

4 “To enforce, with civil and criminal penalties, the
5 limits and prohibitions in this article.

6 “SECTION 5. After one year from the ratification of
7 this article, no Senator or Representative shall receive any
8 compensation or other emoluments from the United States
9 during or for any period of time in office in either House
10 during which the legislation required by section 4 shall not
11 have been in effect.

12 “SECTION 6. The judicial power of the United States
13 shall extend to all suits by citizens of the United States
14 arising under this article, including suits brought directly
15 under this article to enforce its provisions.

16 “SECTION 7. The States shall have power to imple-
17 ment and enforce reasonable regulations on the raising
18 and spending of money by candidates and others to influ-
19 ence State or local elections, including but not limited to
20 the limits and prohibitions in this article.

21 “SECTION 8. This article shall not be construed to
22 grant Congress or the States the power to abridge the
23 freedom of the press.”.

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