

Senate GOP blocks amendment to reform campaign finance laws

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) — Senate Republicans blocked a constitutional amendment designed to let lawmakers overturn two U.S. Supreme Court decisions that let unlimited corporate and individual campaign cash dominate U.S. politics. In its infamous Citizens United ruling in 2010, the five-man GOP-named court majority said, in so many words, that money equals speech.

Senate Democrats needed 60 votes to end debate on the measure, but fell short in the 54-42 party-line vote.

Even had the Democratic-led Senate approved the amendment, the meas-

ure faced huge obstacles: The GOP, which hates limits on campaign contributions and spending, runs the U.S. House, where it would have also needed a two-thirds majority. And it would have needed approval from three-fourths of the states. Republicans control a majority of states.

Communications Workers of America initiated the drive for the amendment, as part of its Democracy Initiative. In the first week of September, the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) stepped up to join them.

“Corporations are not people and shouldn’t be extended the rights of in-

dividuals. This is harming our democratic political process,” CWA said of the court’s rulings that the amendment was designed to overturn.

“The Citizens United decision allowed the Koch brothers, their corporate allies and the elitist rich to lavish far more money than ever before on political candidates who share their goals of crushing working people,” said ATU President Larry Hanley. “It’s time to curb money in politics and put America back in the hands of the people.”

More than 550 cities and 16 states sent resolutions to Congress demanding lawmakers limit the corporate takeover of U.S. politics by passing the proposed amendment. Petitions with 3 million signatures also went to Congress.

Senators voted on party lines, with 52 Democrats and both independents voting for it. Democrat Kirsten Gillibrand of New York was absent. Forty-two Republicans voted against it. It would have been more, but Tom Coburn (Oklahoma), Ted Cruz (Texas) and Lisa Murkowski (Alaska) were absent.

“Americans’ free speech should not be proportionate to their bank accounts. That’s why we introduced the amendment to reform our broken campaign finance system,” said its lead sponsors, Sens. Bernie Sanders, (I-Vermont), and Tom Udall (D-New Mexico)

Stories of women in the trades to be presented on stage

Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc. (OTI) will present the stage production, “My Walk Has Never Been Average,” Friday, Sept. 26, at 7:30 p.m. at the Alberta Rose Theatre, 3000 NE Alberta St., Portland.

The play, written by Roberta Hunte and Bonnie Ratner, is based on Hunte’s in-depth interviews with 15 African-American tradeswomen from around the United States as part of her Ph.D. dissertation. It weaves together the stories of their entry into non-traditional trades careers, and touches on the recurring themes of exclusion from opportunities, sexual harassment, and lack of institutional support for career development.

Hunte was on staff with OTI as a career counselor for three years while she was working on her doctorate.

OTI is presenting the play as part of its annual Tradeswomen Leadership Institute, an educational event that facilitates leadership development, advocacy skills, and unity among women working in the building, construction, mechanical and utility trades.

In Oregon, women comprise approximately 7 percent of the construc-

tion workforce. African-American women comprise only 0.4 percent of construction workers in the state.

My Walk Has Never Been Average is directed by Ratner and stars Marilyn Keller, Shelley B Shelley, Angela Bonilla, Sidony O’Neal, Ashley Williams, Skeeter Greene, Aiyanna Cunningham, and Josie Seid.

A limited quantity of tickets are available to the general public from The Alberta Rose Theatre box office for \$10: www.albertarosetheatre.com.

Local Motion

August 2014

A list of Oregon and Southwest Washington workplaces deciding whether to be union-represented – as reported by the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employment Relations Board.

Voting in union elections

Date	Workplace (Location) Union	Yes	No	
7/23	Ore. Office of Public Defense Services attorneys (Salem) OR AFSCME	20	14	👍
8/28	Siemens Medical Solutions (Portland) IBEW Local 48	13	6	👍

Unionizing by majority sign-up

Date	Workplace (Location) Union	Number of workers in unit
8/13	Hood River County (Hood River) Fed. of Oregon Parole & Probation Officers	2

Requesting a union election

Workplace (Location) Union	Number of workers in unit
ATI Cast Products aerospace machine shop (Salem) Machinists District Lodge W24	61
PeaceHealth physicians and nurse practitioners (Springfield/Eugene) AFT	38
Ardent Mills bakery (Tualatin) Bakers Local 114	46

LEGEND



: workers will be union-represented



: workers will be on their own



(International Standard Serial Number 0894-444X)
Established in 1900 at Portland, Oregon
as a voice of the labor movement.

4275 NE Halsey St., P.O. Box 13150,
Portland, Ore. 97213
Telephone: (503) 288-3311

Editor: Michael Gutwig
Staff: Don McIntosh, Cheri Rice

Published on a semi-monthly basis on the first and third Fridays of each month by the Oregon Labor Press Publishing Co. Inc., a non-profit corporation owned by 19 unions and councils including the Oregon AFL-CIO. Serving more than 80 union organizations in Oregon and SW Washington. Subscriptions \$13.75 per year for union members.

Group rates available to trade union organizations.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID
AT PORTLAND, OREGON.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE: Three weeks are required for a change of address. When ordering a change, please give your old and new addresses and the name and number of your local union.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS, P.O. BOX 13150,
PORTLAND, OR 97213-0150



Carpenters, Electricians, Laborers, Glaziers, Sheetmetal Workers, Floorcoverers, Bricklayers, Cement Masons, Roofers, Asbestos Workers, Millwrights, Painters, Elevators, Plasterers, Family



**Not Only Does the Credit Union Have Money to Lend
We Have NOW Made It Easier For You To Borrow
Call For Details Today!**



9955 SE Washington Street * Portland, OR 97216
(503) 253-8193 * (800) 356-6507

Carpenters, Electricians, Laborers, Glaziers, Sheetmetal Workers, Floorcoverers, Bricklayers, Cement Masons, Roofers, Asbestos Workers, Millwrights, Painters, Elevators, Plasterers, Family