

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE ZACK FIELDS

Fairview • South Addition • Forest Park • Downtown • North Star

February 25, 2026

HJR 31 Sponsor Statement Ver. A (34-LS1226\A) 2/21/26

We have the power to determine that corporations, which have been described as, "...an artificial being, invisible, intangible, and existing only in contemplation of law," do not have the power to spend money in politics. Twenty-two states and hundreds of cities have voted in support to overturn *Citizens United*. Fourteen states and dozens of large cities and counties have enacted a form of legislation to counter *Citizens United*. We have the opportunity to determine for ourselves that **people**, and *not* corporations, hold the ultimate authority in determining our elections.

Between 2008 and 2024 independent expenditures by outside groups in political elections increased at an astronomical level, starting at \$144 million in 2008 and rising to \$4.21 billion in 2024. This is as a direct result of the Supreme Court of the United States decision in *Citizens United v. FEC (2010)* that reversed century-old campaign finance restrictions and created the idea of a corporate personhood which allows unlimited money to be spent on elections. This ruling has increased the amount of political influence that ultra-wealthy donors, corporations, and special interest groups have in our elections.

This is not a decision that we as Alaskans must be bound to. Upon passage from the legislature a proposal will be posed to voters of Alaska to amend the Constitution of Alaska to reflect two key issues: (1) that *natural* persons contain certain inherent rights and, (2) that there is a restriction on groups organized under State law for their contributions or expenditures for the principal purpose of influencing the outcome of elections. This resolution would ensure that Alaskan elections are free from undue influence and are a true representation of the will of the people.