

Bill as Introduced

HB 504 - AS INTRODUCED

2019 SESSION

19-0147

11/01

HOUSE BILL **504**

AN ACT relative to election-related amendments to the United States Constitution.

SPONSORS: Rep. Read, Rock. 17; Rep. Butler, Carr. 7; Rep. Vann, Hills. 24; Rep. T. Smith, Hills. 17; Rep. W. Pearson, Ches. 16; Rep. Guthrie, Rock. 13; Sen. Fuller Clark, Dist 21

COMMITTEE: Legislative Administration

ANALYSIS

This bill calls upon Congress to support election-related amendments to the United States Constitution.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in *bold italics*.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through~~].
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Nineteen

AN ACT relative to election-related amendments to the United States Constitution.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Amendment to the United States Constitution.

2 I. The general court hereby calls upon the United States Congress to support a
3 constitutional amendment containing the following language:

4 "Section I. Congress and State Legislatures shall regulate the role of money in elections and
5 governance to ensure transparency, prevent corruption, and protect against the buying of access to
6 or influence over representatives. No such regulation shall be deemed in violation of freedom of
7 speech rights in the Constitution of the United States or its Amendments.

8 Section II. Legislative districts or districting plans shall not intentionally or unduly favor or
9 disfavor any political party. Within twelve months of ratification, all federal and state district lines
10 shall be redrawn to conform hereto."

11 II. Within 6 months of the effective date of this section, the general court shall hold one
12 public hearing to be attended by 6 members of the house of representatives, 3 from each the 2
13 largest parties, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, and 2 members of the
14 senate, one from each the 2 largest parties, appointed by the president of the senate to record public
15 comments on such an amendment, to be forwarded to New Hampshire's congressional delegation
16 along with the notification of the passage of this act.

17 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

HB 504 - FINAL VERSION

2019 SESSION

19-0147

11/01

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18 VETOED July 10, 2019

19 Veto Sustained September 18, 2019

Amendments

Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19
May 21, 2019
2019-2153s
11/10

Amendment to HB 504

1 Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

2

3 1 Amendment to the United States Constitution. The general court hereby calls upon the
4 United States Congress to support a constitutional amendment containing the following language:

5 "Congress and State Legislatures shall regulate the role of money in elections and governance to
6 ensure transparency, prevent corruption, and protect against the buying of access to or influence
7 over representatives. No such regulation shall be deemed in violation of freedom of speech rights in
8 the Constitution of the United States or its Amendments."

UNAPPROVED

Committee Minutes

AMENDED
SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE
Election Law and Municipal Affairs

Sen Melanie Levesque, Chair
Sen Tom Sherman, Vice Chair
Sen Jon Morgan, Member
Sen Regina Birdsell, Member
Sen James Gray, Member

Date: April 25, 2019

HEARINGS

Wednesday		05/01/2019
(Day)		(Date)
Election Law and Municipal Affairs		LOB 102
(Name of Committee)		(Place)
		9:00 a.m.
		(Time)
9:00 a.m.	HB 479-FN	relative to eligibility for the low and moderate income homeowners property tax relief. (THE PREVIOUS HEARING FOR HB 479 WAS RECESSED ON APRIL 24th)
9:20 a.m.	HB 504	relative to election-related amendments to the United States Constitution.
9:45 a.m.	HB 618-LOCAL	relative to the definition of contracts relative to official ballot default budgets.
10:00 a.m.	HB 706-FN-A	establishing an independent redistricting commission.
11:30 a.m.	HB 641-LOCAL	allowing municipalities to collect an occupancy fee from operators of local room rentals.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

Sponsors:

HB 479-FN

Rep. Fellows

Rep. Weston

HB 504

Rep. Read

Rep. W. Pearson

HB 618-LOCAL

Rep. Gilman

HB 641-LOCAL

Rep. Edgar

Rep. Pantelakos

Rep. Suzanne Smith

HB 706-FN-A

Rep. M. Smith

Rep. Danielson

Sen. Fuller Clark

Rep. Gordon

Rep. Butler

Rep. Guthrie

Rep. Josephson

Rep. Almy

Rep. Cloutier

Sen. Sherman

Rep. Berch

Rep. Ebel

Sen. Chandley

Rep. Ames

Rep. Vann

Sen. Fuller Clark

Rep. Cushing

Rep. Khan

Rep. Porter

Rep. Gordon

Sen. Feltes

Rep. Ellison

Rep. T. Smith

Rep. Cleaver

Rep. Loughman

Rep. Knirk

Rep. Myler

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

Melanie Levesque
Chairman

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee
Tricia Melillo 271-3077

HB 504, relative to election-related amendments to the United States Constitution.

Hearing Date: May 1, 2019

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Levesque, Sherman, Morgan, Birdsell and Gray

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill calls upon Congress to support election-related amendments to the United States Constitution.

Sponsors:

Rep. Read

Rep. Butler

Rep. Vann

Rep. T. Smith

Rep. W. Pearson

Rep. Guthrie

Sen. Fuller Clark

Who supports the bill: Rep. Read, Senator Fuller-Clark, Dick Swett, Carol Huber, Mary Till, Jan Jacome, Dick Huber, Richard Leonard, Claudia Damon, Jim Howard, Bob Perry, Rick Bourdon, Jim Rubens, Olivia Zink, Ben Gubits, Azor Cole, Kimberly Clinch, Laurie Warnock, Pat Wilczynski, Mary Marsh, Cheri Falk Wilton, Liz-Anne Platt, Peter Peneucherich, Maura Willing, Jeanne Torpey, Martha Clark, Susan Covent, Kate Kaynck, Steven Rand, Francis Randy Hayes, Elizabeth Iacobucci, Jennifer Dube, Sally Hatch, Susan Kennedy, Ellin Leonard, Laura Magzis, Corinne Dodge, Sandra Stonehands, Trudy Mott-Smith

Who opposes the bill: Alvin See

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Read

- This bill states that NH supports a constitutional amendment that would end the two biggest forms of political corruption that plague our democracy especially at the federal level.
- The first form is buying of influence over legislators by elite special interests and the second is drawing districts to intentionally waste people's votes; gerrymandering.
- This is not a call for an article 5 convention.
- The second thing is that it records a single public hearing to record input from NH citizens to be sent to our congressional delegation.
- There have been similar bills in recent past, one, HR7, which said that only people eligible to vote in an election should be allowed to influence that election with money.
- NH cannot make HR7 a law in this state because of SCOTUS decisions.
- The reason bills like this keep coming up is because the people of NH keep telling the legislators they want it.
- This bill will make us the 20th state to ask Congress to act.
- If congress passes this, it would allow NH to pass their owns laws to prevent the buying of influence.

- The people of NH would like this bill between 80 and 90 percent of citizens believe the wealthy elite and special interests are buying influence.
- This has been proven in studies. Princeton found that wealthy special interests almost always got what they wanted and concluded we are in effect not an actual democratic republic anymore but behave like a plutocracy.
- The gerrymandering piece of the bill is believed by the public to be legal corruption.
- 81 percent of the public believe that gerrymandering should be considered unconstitutional.
- It is an endless cycle of cheating and someone has to tackle what is fair and everyone knows that our system is broken.
- Granite Staters' are sick of political corruption.
- They know this is not the democracy that we were taught to believe in
- They are mad, and regular citizens are demanding that legislators fix this problem.
- Name a single bill that 1/3 of towns in NH have come together on before.
- It is only right to give the people that has voted on this a voice at a single hearing to pass their thoughts on to the Congressional Delegation.
- Listen to the side that appealed to morality, buying influence and cheating voters of an equal vote is wrong.
- She passed a list around of towns that have voted for this resolution.
- Senator Birdsell asked if she is aware of HB 706. Representative Read said yes, she is aware, but this bill is for a federal constitutional amendment.
- Senator Birdsell asked if in the second section if some of the federal legislators should be at the hearing. Representative Read stated that this would only be a hearing to take the peoples opinions and then the legislators can take that to the Congressional Delegation.

Senator Fuller-Clark

- For several sessions she has supported a resolution to get money out of politics.
- This is a very important solution that will give NH a strong voice.
- There is a stunning growth of outside money coming into NH and whatever we can do to change that is what is best.
- More than 80 communities have passed resolutions to tell Congress to take money out of politics.
- It would be important to have a public hearing regarding this in every one of the New Hampshire's ten counties rather than just one. This would give all of New Hampshire citizens a chance to participate.

Dick Swett

- He has a few suggestions. On line 6 they may want to add the words federal and state before representatives.
- In the money aspect of the bill, it should include foreign money.
- In the section on gerrymandering process is very important and should be included. The Florida model is a good model to fix gerrymandering.

Jim Howard

- He spent 38 years in local government.
- The effort to enlarge that group of towns that have voted to cities is underway.

- It is worth understanding the scourge that is being visited on our communities and the voters from the influencing of dark money.
- Open Democracy is going to be screening the movie Dark Money to show how dark money adversely affected the citizens of Montana.

Bob Perry

- This bill will have a significant effect on whether our representative democracy flourishes or is extinguished at the hands of big money.
- Prior to the Citizens United ruling, there was a general agreement that congress and state legislatures had to authority to balance the political influence of ordinary people with corporate entities.
- The Supreme Court has made it possible for a 501(C) (4) tax-exempt non-profit to spend 49 percent of its expenditures to support or oppose candidates for political office and not reveal where that money came from.
- Campaign spending has increased dramatically since January 21, 2010.
- When reading Jane Mayer's 2016 expose Dark Money, a person can become despondent learning the extent to which money has brought so much political influence, forcing its will on the rest of the people in the last 40 years.
- The intent of HB 504 is to restore the authority abolished by Citizens United.
- In non-binding petitions, 19 states and 796 municipalities, including 82 in New Hampshire, have formally passed resolutions that would return the right to regulate campaign spending.
- The intent of section II is to inject fairness into the redistricting process.
- He lives in a gerrymandered house and senate district, which deprives Democratic voters of the kind of representation they prefer for a period likely to last ten years.
- An addition to the NH Advantage would be to make NH the 20th state to adopt badly needed campaign finance reform to include HB 504.

Rick Bourdon – Open Democracy Action

- In 2014 he sponsored one of the warrant articles that called for a federal constitutional amendment to counter the damaging effects of the Supreme Court's *Citizen United* decision.
- The voice vote was overwhelmingly in favor of the warrant article.
- It should be discussed at a town meeting because members of Congress are so dependent on special interest money that they are not going to attack the problem on their own.
- Only grassroots political pressure, from the bottom up, will force them to act.
- If the town meeting was today it would be supported just as much.
- Senator Levesque asked if he is encouraging towns to do it again. Mr. Bourdon replied that Open Democracy has not taken a position on that.

Jim Rubens

- He has worked on re-districting committees before and they had advanced the republican cause by adding seats to the legislature.
- He does not believe that is how it should be done. They should be advocating for their principles and selling those to the public.
- A poll was completed by Rasmussen and only one question polled over fifty percent and that question was about whether political corruption was a crisis.

- The American public knows that Washington politics are corrupt, and our republic is at risk.
- Our forefathers warned us that this system would not work unless citizens remain active and voters trust the form of government.
- The trust has broken down. Only 17% of those polled trust that congress is acting in the interest of America
- One of the harms of the present system is the replacement of free market capitalism with crony capitalism.
- The system now allows the powerful and the wealthy to go to congress and buy policy.
- The result of this is that 50 percent of democrats now have a positive view of socialism.
- We are corroding free market capitalism which has been a dominant force of human wellbeing worldwide.
- This bill seeks to rectify this by building public trust.
- This system was formerly used advantageously by Republicans but that is not the case anymore. Data from the 2018 cycle shows that liberal dark money groups outspent conservative groups 54 to 31 percent.
- Senator Sherman asked what is the one thing that he could pick that shifted his view on gerrymandering. Mr. Rubens stated that he supports any legislation that will allow one person one vote to be operative again. His experience in the Senate is what led to these conclusions and his lengthy dealings with groups that would manipulate this legislature, watching how money was buying policy to the extreme disadvantage and wellbeing of our state. It was happening because of flaws in the system that this bill seeks to correct at the federal level.

Ben Gubits – Director American Promise

- Many Americans are feeling excluded by our political system because money increasing controls who can run, who can serve and what issue are important.
- Our political system is dominated by the very few.
- The 2016 election was the most expensive in American history and most of that money came from less than one half of one percent of the population.
- Three billionaires spent 200 million dollars in the 2016 election.
- In general, only four percent of Americans participate in the political money game.
- While unions and very wealthy account for a great deal of money, global corporations are also spending large amounts in federal and state elections.
- Corporations increasingly are trying to hide how they spend their money.
- This is the American reality now. With only a few exceptions, money decides who runs who wins and who governs.
- In this system most Americans become like second class citizens treated like consumers than citizens and mere spectators to the fights that happen between competing factions of the donor class.
- This 28th amendment will renew the promise of democracy and will restore free speech rights not just for those with money.
- The amendment will limit concentrated money in elections and the pay to play lobbying system and keep corporations and unions out of the political money spending games.
- His handout has a report reflects the bipartisan nature of this reform.
- Wyoming just passed this bill and it can be done in New Hampshire.

Laurie Warnock (read testimony from Representative Guthrie)

- The first component of this bill addresses money's role in politics.
- In his district he has not had to rely on fundraising and could connect with people through door knocking.
- The thought of outside interests pouring money into local races worries him and in some districts that is exactly what is happening.
- The language in this bill is a major first step in allowing us to level the playing field.
- Public service is about serving the public, not catering to outside interests.
- 80 percent of NH citizens believe that "Big Money" is a problem in NH elections.
- That includes, 85 percent of Independent voters, 74 percent of Republican voters and 79 percent of Democratic voters.
- The second component of this bill is just as important and something both parties take part in.
- He is tired of looking at district maps that look like a Chinese checkers board.
- He believes the language in this bill regarding legislative districts being fair is exactly the language we need in our constitution.

Corrine Dodge

- She has been advocating for this issue for the last five years.
- She has heard from members of the senate that the cost of running a campaign has increased to almost 100,000 dollars.
- Large amounts of secret money from wealthy donors and corporations was spent in an attempt to ruin their campaigns with false information.
- NH legislators stated to her that while they strongly support campaign finance reform, they were afraid of losing their election if they dared to come out publicly in favor of it.
- These reasons are why we need a national constitutional amendment for long-term prevention of this excessive and secret campaign funding.
- NH legislators should not be afraid to support their constituents
- Four years ago, the senate voted unanimously to pass SB 136, a bill similar to the current SB 504.
- She thanked Senator Birdsell, as her constituent, for voting in support of that bill after meeting with concerned citizens and hearing their concerns.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None

Speakers

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

SIGN-IN SHEET

40-19900

Date: May 1, 2019 Time: 9:20 a.m.

HB 504 AN ACT relative to election-related amendments to the United States Constitution.

Name/Representing (please print neatly)

Name/Representing	Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
Senator Fuller Clark SD#21	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alvin See Loudon Self	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dick Sweet Self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carol Huber Self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MARY TILL Self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
JAN JACOME Self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DICK HUBER SELF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
RICHARD LEONARD SELF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Claudia Damon Self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jim Howard Self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BOB BERRY OPEN DEMOCRACY A.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RICK BOURDON " " "	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jill Rubens TAKE BACK OUR REPUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OLIVIA ZINK OPEN DEMOCRACY ACTION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ben Gubits American Promise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Azor Cole American Promise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kimberly Clinch American Promise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Laurie Wamock self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep Ellen Read	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee SIGN-IN SHEET

Date: May 1, 2019 Time: 9:20 a.m.

HB 504 AN ACT relative to election-related amendments to the United States Constitution.

Name/Representing (please print neatly)

Name/Representing	Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
PAT Wileczynski - Concord	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mary Marsh Self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cheri Falk Wilton Self	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Liz Anne Platt Concord Self	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kimberly Clinch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rita Penneucel self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Laurie Warnock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maura Willing Concord self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jeanne Torrey Concord self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Martha Clark Canterbury	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SUSAN LOVELL CONCORD self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kate Kaynak, Hopkinton, self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
STEVEN RAND, Rumford, self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Francis Randy Hayes self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Elizabeth Tacucci self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer Dube Self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SALLY HATCH Concord self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Susan Kennedy Canterbury	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ellen Leonard Conway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Laura Maggis Concord	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

~~Corinne Dodge~~
Vanda Stankovic

X
X

X
X

Testimony

HB 504 Testimony May 1, 2019 Senate Election Law

Good Morning Chairwoman Levesque, Vice Chair Sherman and members of this Election Law Committee:

My name is Corinne Dodge. I am a voter in Derry, and am representing both myself and NH Voters Restoring Democracy, ~~(a grassroots group of NH citizens advocating for the passage of a national amendment to the US Constitution to stop the corrupting influence of excessive and secret money in our current election financing system and to end the practice of partisan redistricting known as gerrymandering.)~~ We are in strong support of HB 504 and are asking you for your support also.

I have personally been advocating for this issue for the past 5 years and would like to share with you some of what I have learned by speaking with and listening to a good number of NH Republican and Democratic legislators and candidates for state and federal office. In requesting help for the promotion of campaign finance reform, this is what I heard from them:

1. Over and over I heard from a number of your NH Senate colleagues, who told me of their frustration and anger that the current cost of running a Senate election campaign in NH has escalated drastically in the past few years. Many have indicated to me that the cost can now be more than a hundred thousand dollars. *This is a clear indication that our current campaign finance system has clearly become overwhelmingly burdensome to candidates who are brave enough to refrain from accepting money from very wealthy donors, large corporations, and Super Pacs from out of state.*
2. A number of candidates, especially those in close races, told me that large amounts of secret money from wealthy donors and corporations was spent in an attempt to ruin their campaigns with false information.
3. I heard from some NH legislators that while they strongly supported campaign finance reform in principle, they were literally afraid of losing their election if they dared to come out publicly in favor of campaign finance reform. They indicated that they had very good reason to believe that their campaign would be attacked with unlimited amounts of money from secret Super Pacs from outside of NH.

My response to all these statements is that this is exactly why we **need** a national Constitutional Amendment for comprehensive and long-term prevention of this excessive and secret campaign funding and spending madness. In the past, this corruption of election funding was considered to be only a Federal problem. That is no longer true: it has clearly become a serious problem right here in NH. NH Legislators should **not** be afraid to support NH constituents. Now is the time for you as Senators to stand up and support constituents, ethical election financing and ethical governance.

Please follow the lead of your colleagues, the NH Senators who voted unanimously 4 years ago, in support of SB 136, a bill similar to the current SB 504 bill for a Constitutional Amendment. And as your constituent, Sen. Birdsell, I would personally like to thank you for your vote in support of that bill after you agreed to meet with myself and a large number of your constituents in 2015 at the Derry Library to hear our concerns. We are now asking you for your support again to advocate for a constitutional amendment to end the corrupting influence of excessive and secret money in politics.

And I ask all of you Senators on this committee to unanimously send HB 504 onto a full Senate vote as "Ought to Pass".

Thank you

Respectfully
Thank you for listening carefully to us +



May 1, 2019

The Honorable Melanie Levesque, Chair
Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs
Legislative Office Building, Room 102
Concord, NH 03301

TESTIMONY in support of HB 504

Dear Members of Election Law Committee,

For the record my name is Olivia Zink, from Open Democracy Action, a non-partisan non-profit organization. Open Democracy Action's mission is to bring about and safeguard political equality for the people of New Hampshire. This will only happen through an open, accountable, and trusted democratic government, "of, by, and for the people," that is free from the corrupting influence of big-money politics and control.

I am here to speak for HB 504. The vast majority of New Hampshire voters, no matter what their political leanings, agree that this system of donor-focused politics needs to end. By passing House Bill 504, New Hampshire's state Legislature can lead the way.

New Hampshire citizens are tired of the influence of big money in politics, and are ready for a solution. 82 towns have passed warrant Articles in NH. Towns and cities have raised their voices that a Constitutional Amendment is the long-term solution to fully reverse the Court's ruling and to restore our rights and assert that "Democracy is for People." Voters of all political stripes are coming together to help pass HB 504.

Former Senator Warren Rudman of New Hampshire wrote "Supreme Court opinion notwithstanding, corporations are not defined as people under the Constitution; and free speech can hardly be called free when only the rich are heard."

This call for a Constitutional Amendment is about free speech, every voice being heard equally.

Respectfully,

Olivia Zink
Open Democracy Action
4 Park St, Suite 301, Concord, NH 03301
603-715-8197

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee
May 1st, 2019

Testimony of New Hampshire Rep. Joseph Guthrie of Rockingham District 13

Committee Members,

I'm here today to voice my support for HB 504, a bill aimed at restoring the ideals of our great nation as laid out by our Founding Fathers writing our country's bedrock document: the U.S. Constitution.

The bill has two components, both of which I feel are not partisan issues, but American ones. The first addresses money's role in elections.

In my time as an elected official, I've had the fortune of being in a district where, to run a winning campaign, my emphasis could be more on door knocking and less on fundraising. This is what I've done. This is how I've connected with my constituents. With people.

With my \$100 a year salary, the thought of outside interests pouring 10 times, 20 times even, that amount of money into local races worries me. In some districts, this is exactly what happens.

The first section of this bill states, "Congress and **State Legislatures** shall regulate the role of money in elections and governance to ensure transparency, prevent corruption, and protect against the buying of access to or influence over representatives." This is a major first step in allowing us to **level the playing field**.

Public service is just what it sounds like. It's about serving to the public, not catering to outside interests just to be able to mount a viable campaign.

80% of NH citizens believe that "Big Money" is a problem in New Hampshire elections. That includes including 85% of independent voters, 74% of Republicans and 79% of Democrats. Nationally, 84% of people believe that money has too much influence on elections. I think we have an opportunity here in the NH legislature to **be leaders on this national issue**.

The second component of this bill is equally important. Partisan gerrymandering is something that both parties do, and I do not blame them. It's a political reality. We play by the rules.

HB 504 is an opportunity to fundamentally change the rules.

I'm tired of looking at district maps that look like a chinese checkers board, and I know everyday New Hampshire citizens are too. The second section of this bill states, "Legislative districts or districting plans shall not intentionally or unduly favor or disfavor any political party." This is exactly the type of language we need written into our constitution.

In my time as a state legislator, I've taken pride in my willingness to work across the aisle. The best ideas should always win out, and this bill is a great idea that people of all political leanings can support. I urge the committee to vote yes on HB 504. Thank you.

###

Testimony of Jim Rubens

Etna, NH, (603) 359-3300, JimRubens@gmail.com

New England Chair, Take Back Our Republic, TakeBack.org

These views are my own and not necessarily those of any organization.

Backing HB504, relative to an election-related amendment to the US Constitution

Before the Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee, May 1, 2019

Jim Rubens background: former GOP state senator, former GOP platform committee chair, candidate for US Senate 2014 and 2016. Served on two legislative study committees/commissions relative to campaign finance reform.

Our constitution's framers crafted history's most remarkable form of government, a republic that rests final accountability in the hands of the American people, yet mitigates risks of both mob rule and tyranny. But, as our framers warned, survival of our republic rests on both active citizenship and trust that our representatives are acting in our best interest. That trust is gone. We need action by Congress to restore it.

A [Rasmussen poll](#) taken last week (4/24/19) found that 53 percent of voters now believe that government corruption is our nation's biggest crisis. 87 percent view political corruption as "widespread" at the federal level. Only 17 percent trust the federal government to do the right thing all or most of the time. Given a list of ten national challenges, only political corruption was ranked as a crisis by a majority of voters.

- Political corruption 53% (R/D 47/56)
- Illegal immigration 43% (66/25)
- Federal deficits 40% (44/36)
- Global warming 39% (16/54)
- Poverty 33% (22/43)
- Racism 30% (18/42)
- Student debt 29% (19/37)
- Economic inequality 27% (14/38)
- Overregulation 22% (23/19)
- Sexism 18% (12/24)

The reason? Voters don't just believe, they know that the system is rigged by those powerful or wealthy enough to play the game in Washington. The result?

Crony Capitalism Is Eclipsing Free Market Capitalism

- Government is increasingly picking economic winners via tax subsidies, regulatory favoritism and spending programs. Business competes by buying influence in Washington instead of offering better products and services to consumers. Crony capitalism is a direct result of our corrupt political system.
- [The Conference Board](#), one of our nation's leading champions of the enduring virtues of free-market capitalism, in its 2015 [white paper](#), singles out today's big-money, special-interest dominated campaign finance system as suppressing innovation and market competition and eroding public support for capitalism. The Conference Board paper fingers "a growing nexus among crony deals, campaign contributions and lobbying."
- Crony capitalism is reducing public support for free-market capitalism. Recent Gallup polling shows a sharp partisan split, 57-16 percent Ds vs. Rs, having a [positive view of socialism](#).

Over, please

Taxpayers Pay Dearly for Today's Crony-Cap Campaign Finance System

- A massive 2014 study by the Sunlight Foundation showed that for every dollar of lobbying and political contributions, politically active corporations received \$760 from the government in the form of tax breaks, loan guarantees and contracts.
- The current crony cap, pay-to-play system is driving up waste, pork and deficits. The costs of the resulting spending, tax increases and market distortion are paid for by all of us in higher taxes and reduced prosperity.

Rule by Out of State Elites from DC, NY, SF

- A tiny handful of people using their own selection criteria (such as Michael Bloomberg, Sheldon Adelson, George Soros, Tom Steyer, the Koch Brothers, NEA, Big Pharma, Planned Parenthood, etc.) run the money primary and determine which candidates for Congress are viable, get media coverage and are even visible to voters.
- This creates massive bias. This shrinks the pool of credible, competitive candidates. Debate over critical issues such as war/peace or debt is narrowed. Incumbents are protected. Washington is gridlocked.

Bill of Rights Trampled, specifically the 10th Amendment

- The deluge of out-of-state money has weakened the vital connection between local candidates and local voters who can vote for them. Issues and elections have become nationalized and New Hampshire priorities and solutions made subsidiary, contravening the intent of 10th Amendment.
- Every major issue is being homogenized across the country.
- Our state "laboratories of democracy" are being junked.

The Rigged System No Longer Favors Republicans

- Some Republicans operate under the cynical misconception that Republicans are better at the big-money game than Dems. Dems have caught up. Nationally, for the 2018 cycle, liberal dark money groups outspent conservatives 54/31.

Republicans and Democrats do not need to agree on how we address our nation's big challenges. We do agree that we must take action to restore public trust in our republic. The constitutional amendment and systemic reforms proposed in HB504 are aimed directly at restoring that trust. Please support an OTP recommendation.

May 1, 2019 9:20 AM
Room 102 LOB
Testimony of James Howard, 15 Pleasant View Av. Concord, NH
Re: HB 504
Relative to election-related amendments to the US Constitution

Honorable Chairperson, Committee Members and those assembled here, thank you for your service to the State Government and service to its citizens and this opportunity to speak before you.

My name is James Howard, address 15 Pleasant View Av Concord NH, I have been a resident of Concord and NH since 1981. I am a volunteer and not paid for my testimony.

I appear today in support of the NH Legislature adding its significant voice, along with 19 other US States, in petitioning the US Congress to Amend the US Constitution to eliminate the adverse affects of money on our electoral process and the deleterious and unconscionable affects of the Citizens United Supreme Court perpetrated against Free Speech.

I implore you to join with the voices of our state's citizens who have championed this cause for so long, most notably Granny D with New Hampshire's Coalition for Open Democracy and its supporters and the nation-wide efforts being wrought along with groups allied with American Promise across the US.

Briefly: From 1981 until retirement in 2010 I was honored also to be a contributor to and believer in our Government 'of, by and for the people' in my role as CFO for the City. I had many opportunities to appear before committees like this for the betterment of our local communities. Today it is more personal. Being inspired by my father and his brothers who fought in WWI and Grandfather who fought in WWI, and numerous inspiring American leaders when found physically unsuitable to follow my forbearers in military service I pursued purposeful training, and advanced education to serve the people through government, again believing in our declaration. Since Retirement from the City I have plied my energies further to public service endeavors and now as a democracy volunteer to sustain and uphold that belief by fighting; fighting against the influence of money in politics that corrupts our democratic process as it serves, unequally, those who can afford to pay above others. Clearly our democracy is neither a divine gift, birthright, nor a natural human state of existence to take for granted. Democracy is to be fought for.

Please raise your voices in this fight; support the tenants, purposes and objective espoused in HB504. Our election laws and lawmakers have the obligation to restore the voice of the people. Not just for our country, but for our progeny's.

We don't stand alone here today in this persuasion. From my research, I can tell you this is effort receives wide bi-partisan support, as it should. Well-intentioned,

effective and bi-partisan supported law on this subject has been erroneously found lacking by a tone-deaf US Supreme Court. A constitutional Amendment needs to be made to resolve the primacy of the people and the promise 'of, by and for the people'.

I shouldn't need to tell you that there is wide and ever-growing agreement across the electorate as evidenced by numerous polling entities of people of voting ages, race and party affiliation 2015 through 2018 from IPSOS, the University of Maryland, Pew Research and the New York Times, combine to say this, in summary, about their respondents:

- 85% say the elections need either a fundamental or complete rebuilding of the campaign finance system;
- 2/3 of respondents believe the wealthy have a greater opportunity to influence election results;
- 60% of combined respondents say it's 'very important' to reduce the influence of money, that it is non-partisan with 49% for republicans and 72% of Democrats
- 63% in an IPSOS survey opposed the Citizens United ruling with only 37% indicating support therefore;
- A Pew poll in 2018 found 77% of respondents agreed that spending limits needed to be placed on individual and group political contributions; 65% supported writing and adopting laws that would be effective in reducing the role of money in politics and 74% say that money has a very important influence on election outcomes.

Here in NH, since 2012, 82 NH Towns have passed warrant articles at Town meeting in support of this effort, with the number growing every year. And as far as I now know, only one of the 13 NH Cities, i.e., Keene, (kudos to them) has passed a resolution in support of the effort, I personally hope to make that number change soon, beginning here, in the Capital City.

Please consider what I offer, in your deliberations on this important bill. Solving the problems facing our nation and creating opportunity for all needs this to be done. Vote, overwhelmingly for passage of HB 504.
Thank You.

HB 504
Room 303, Legislative Administration
1.24.19 at 11:15 A.M.
Time: 3:55

I speak in support of HB 504.

This resolution contains a mere 223 words, which, if enacted, would have a significant affect on whether our representative Democracy flourishes, or is extinguished at the hands of big money.

I quote the language from Section I: "Congress and State Legislatures shall regulate the role of money in elections and governance to ensure transparency, prevent corruption, and protect against the buying of access to or influence over representatives."

Prior to the Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v FEC, there was general agreement that congress and state legislatures, through the will of the people, had the authority to balance the political influence of ordinary people with corporate entities. From Citizens United came the rulings in SpeechNow and McCutcheon. Combined, they effectively wipe out 100 years of federal and state laws, beginning with the Tillman Act of 1907, which was the first legislation in the United States prohibiting monetary contributions to national political campaigns by corporations, an act that responded to complaints against Theodore Roosevelt's acceptance of corporate campaign contributions.

Our Supreme Court has made it possible for a 501(c)(4) tax-exempt non-profit to spend 49 percent of its expenditures to support or oppose candidates for political office, and not reveal where that money came from, even though the Citizens United ruling suggested public financial disclosure essential to Democracy.

Campaign spending has increased dramatically since January 21, 2010. Our current model of campaign financing is

unsustainable, and destined to overwhelm what the founders had in mind for our fledgling nation. Indeed, a Princeton study on the state of our democracy concluded the political influence of ordinary people is dwarfed by the spending of corporations and the wealthy. The study concluded we are governed by an oligarchy.

I have read Jane Mayer's 2016 expose entitled Dark Money. It is difficult reading. One could easily become despondent learning the extent to which money has bought so much political influence, forcing its will on the rest of us in the last 40 years.

The role of congress and state legislatures to regulate money in our elections is fundamental to a properly functioning Democracy. The intent of HB 504 is to restore that authority abolished by Citizens United. By way of non-binding petitions, 19 states and 796 municipalities, including 82 in New Hampshire, have formally passed resolutions that would return the right to regulate campaign spending. I urge members of this committee not to ignore this new reality, and to give this bill serious consideration.] audio

The intent of Section II is to inject fairness into the redistricting process, thereby contributing to the concept of one person, one vote. I live in a gerrymandered house and senate district, which deprives Democratic voters of the kind of representation they prefer for a period likely to last ten years, in the same way gerrymandered executive council District #2 deprives Republican voters of the kind of outcomes they prefer.

Quoting George Bernard Shaw: "Democracy is a device that ensures we shall be governed no better than we deserve."

I have heard the phrase New Hampshire Advantage repeated often. An addition to that list would be making New Hampshire the 20th state to adopt badly needed campaign finance reform, to include HB 504.

Respectfully submitted - Bob Perry, Strafford

May 1, 2019

The Honorable Melanie Levesque, Chair
Senate Election Law & Municipal Affairs Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 102

TESTIMONY in support of HB 504 by Rick Bourdon, Co-chair, Open Democracy Action

Chairman Levesque and members of the Committee,

In March of 2014, I testified at the Lyme Town Meeting in favor of Warrant Article 17, which called for a federal constitutional amendment to counter the damaging effects of the Supreme Court's *Citizen United* decision. Below is an excerpt from the short speech I made then.

This Article

Warrant Article 17 is an attempt to reverse the damage caused by recent court rulings. It instructs our representatives in Washington and Concord to support an amendment (1) reestablishing the authority of Congress and state legislatures to regulate political spending, and (2) making clear that the rights enumerated in the Constitution were intended for real people, not corporations or unions.

An issue for Town Meeting?

You may be thinking, *OK, this is an important issue, but why bring it up at Town Meeting?* The answer is simple. Members of Congress are now so dependent on special interest money that they are not going to attack the problem on their own. Only grassroots political pressure, pressure from the bottom up, will force them to act. And we—here in this room—are the bottom.

Quoted
this

The voice vote that followed was overwhelmingly in favor of the warrant article. I counted maybe two, no more than three dissenters among the 160 or so people in the room.

There was no doubt then, and certainly not today, that the people in my town despise the *Citizens United* decision. It's time for the New Hampshire Legislature to be on record in support of that sentiment. I urge the Committee to pass HB 504, a bill that would do just that.

Respectfully,

Rick Bourdon, Co-Chair, Open Democracy Action
50 Preston Road
Lyme, NH 03301
(603) 759-1888

Dear Senator

The elections of 2016 and 2018 (and many others, I'm sure) left a bad taste in the mouths of NH citizens, no matter their party affiliation, no matter the victorious candidate. The flow of excessive outside money into the accounts of the candidates caused this.

I'm respectfully asking you to **support House Bill 504**, which would add NH onto the list of states looking to get big money out of political campaigns. Passage of this bill would exchange your massive campaign fundraising efforts for more time to spend on legislation and listening to constituents. This bill already has 80% of Granite Staters looking to you get big money out of government, to end Citizen's United.

The 1976 Buckley v. Valeo – an unsigned and deeply divided Supreme Court decision, changed everything. Prior to that, for nearly 200 years, people in your position had the power to protect US democracy from runaway money, making campaigning more costly and less personal. The Fix It America Constitutional Amendment simply empowers legislators to do what they have been doing since the inception of the Republic. HB 504 empowers you to make rules that enable you to run campaigns without worrying about dark money upping the ante.

I am also asking you to **support HB 706, to end Gerrymandering**. "To the winner goes the spoils" may be a way to win elections, but it should not be the way to set up elections. No party should have the right to dilute the voting power of other voters. Ideally, a republic, a representative government, should be based on population proportion, rather than artificially drawn districts which would defy the best jigsaw puzzle completers in the state. Representative government works best this way, rather than the constant redrawing of districts.

Thank-you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Amy B. Dattner-Levy
Derry, NH 03038

VOTE OTP on HB 504

House Bill 504-- The Fix It America Constitutional Amendment

Section I. Congress and State Legislatures shall regulate the role of money in elections and governance to ensure transparency, prevent corruption, and protect against the buying of access to or influence over representatives. No such regulation shall be deemed in violation of freedom of speech rights in the Constitution of the United States or its Amendments.

Section II. Legislative districts or districting plans shall not intentionally or unduly favor or disfavor any political party.

The People Demand Action: 82 communities have passed resolutions calling on you to fix our corrupt political system (the resolutions typically won by a 2-1 margin or wider)¹

Albany	Dorchester	Jaffrey	Plymouth
Alstead	Dublin	Keene	Rindge
Amherst	Durham	Kingston	Rye
Andover	Eaton	Lee	Salem
Antrim	Effingham	Lyme	Sanbornton
Atkinson	Epping	Madbury	Sandown
Barrington	Exeter	Marlborough	Sandwich
Bartlett	Francestown	Mason	Sharon
Bedford	Gilmanton	Milford	Stratham
Bethlehem	Goffstown	New Boston	Temple
Bradford	Greenville	New Durham	Tilton Town
Bridgewater	Groton	New London	Wakefield
Bristol	Hampstead	Newfields	Walpole
Brookline	Hancock	Newmarket	Warner
Canterbury	Hanover	Newport	Waterville Valley
Chesterfield	Harrisville	Northwood	Webster
Conway	Henniker	Nottingham	Westmoreland
Cornish	Hollis	Pelham	Wilton
Danville	Hopkinton	Peterborough	Windham
Deerfield	Hudson	Piermont	
Derry	Jackson	Plainfield	

NEW HAMPSHIRE CITIZENS OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORT HB 504:

- 80% of New Hampshire Citizens want their legislators to do something about money and its impact on elections and governance²
- 71% of voters across the country believe gerrymandering is unconstitutional and want changes so that voters can pick their politicians, rather than politicians picking their voters through unfair drawing of district lines. (65% of Republicans, 68% of independents and 80% of Democrats agree)³
- HB 504 is a tangible way for New Hampshire legislators to respond to their constituents. The Amendment clearly articulates the underlying principles of fairness with which most of us agree.

¹ <http://united4thepeople.org/state-and-local-support-2/#NH>

² https://www.opendemocracyaction.org/2018_voter_dollars_bill_polling_data

³ Source: https://campaignlegal.org/sites/default/files/memo_CLCPartisanRedistricting_FINAL_2.09082017%20%28002%29.pdf

Fixit amendment

1. This bill very simple
2. Does two things:
3. First would state that NH supports supports a constitutional amendment that would end the two biggest forms political corruption that plague our democracy, especially at the federal level
4. ... the buying of influence over legislators by elite special interests...and the drawing of districts to intentionally waste people's votes in order to get election results that DO NOT REFLECT THE VOTERS' WISHES
5. (note that it is NOT an article 5 convention, just a statement that supports Congress passing a constitutional amendment)
6. I will read the actual language because it is quite short and I think very good language.

7. The second thing is that it creates a single public hearing, to record input from NH citizens to be sent to our congressional delegation
8. There have been similar bills in the past...in 2014 one passed both chambers and failed in a committee of conference, and in 2015 it passed the Senate UNANIMOUSLY, then passed the House, but there was a voting machine problem, and a reconsideration was called, and it failed by one vote
9. Just this last term the House voted overwhelmingly, nearly unanimous in committee and on a vote of 211-75, passed HR7, which said that only people eligible to vote in an election should be allowed to influence that election with money
10. BUT NH cannot make HR7 a law in this state, because SCOTUS cases that have determined that states do not have the right to control the corrupting influence of money in their own elections
11. This bill, if passed, would make us the 20th state to ask Congress to act...and a Constitutional amendment such as this would allow states to pass their own laws to prevent the buying of influence

12. The REASON we keep having this bill is SIMPLE—the People of NH KEEP TELLING US TO!
13. I don't mean one small group...I mean virtually EVERYONE IN NH
14. Of ALL states, NH is so proud in its connection between the People and government, our citizen legislature, our large House and small constituency size and how accessible we legislators are, our first in the Nation status
15. So it makes sense when we have poll after poll telling us between 80-90% of citizens in NH, including the vast majority of every political affiliation, believe that wealthy elite individuals and special interests are buying influence, buying laws that benefit themselves and no one else, and want that to change...
16. This issue...knowing government now represents money instead of people...isn't just a "feeling" everyone has...
17. It is has been proven demonstrably in studies...Princeton & Northwestern study, over 20 years of legislation 81-2002, about 2000 pieces of legislation...they found while as you'd expect, wealthy special interests almost always get what they wanted, " **the preferences of the average American appear to have only a minuscule, near-zero, statistically non-significant impact upon public policy**"....and concluded we are in effect not an actual democratic republic anymore, but behave like a plutocracy

18. As for the second piece, gerrymandering...quite possibly even more well understood by the public to be legal corruption than even the buying of influence.
19. 81% of the public, again regardless of party, believe gerrymandering should be considered unconstitutional...because it is intentionally making people's votes NOT count...the literal opposite of the concept this country was founded on
20. We have a system where the winner gets to make the rules to make sure the other guys don't get a fair shot the next time...and then when the other guys do win, they get to cheat because hey, they did it to us
21. Well SOMEONE has to be the grown ups in the room...SOMEONE has to stand up for what is fair, for what the People want

Stop this endless cycle of cheating

*Make
this
clear*

*um
Iran*

22. Everyone knows our system is broken. Everyone is sick of it. Being fed up with our current corrupt system was the biggest driving force behind 2016 election in both parties.
23. Granite Staters are SICK TO DEATH ^{in particular} of political corruption...they don't THINK ~~their~~ legislators are bought and paid for, they KNOW IT. They don't THINK districts are being drawn to make their votes not matter...they KNOW IT.
24. They KNOW this isn't the democracy we were all taught to believe in and be proud of in elementary school. They KNOW that our founders didn't want the wealthy elites buying access ^{politics} and controlling policy. They KNOW that of all the people who fought and died for our country not ONE of them did it so a banker could curry favor with a congressperson, or a party in the majority could silence the votes ^{of} of the other party for countless elections to come.
25. And they are MAD ...they are so MAD that regular citizens have started warrant articles in their towns demanding that WE, their state legislature, FIX the problem
26. And not just one or two towns...over the last few years the voters of 82 towns passed ^{local} resolutions demanding that we do something about this...
27. That is over 1/3 of all the towns in NH...
28. AND Several towns even have now passed it twice,
29. AND more will be taking it up
30. It almost always passes when it is introduced, and usually passes unanimously or overwhelmingly by voice vote, or by about 70%
31. It doesn't get any more grassroots than this, people are doing everything they can think of to try to restore integrity to politics
32. They are Mad ~~as all get out~~, so mad they make time in their busy lives to come together to officially vote to tell us what to do,
33. ~~And we are just going to continue to ignore them???~~ ^{And} ~~Because~~ if we choose to ignore them, as we have done for a couple years, when what they are demanding costs nothing but merely takes a stance in favor of a fair system...then shame on us.
34. Do we think that we know better than ^{the} ~~our bosses, the people who put us here?~~
35. I challenge anyone to name for me, of all the bills we DO pass, a single solitary example of another bill, that 1/3 of all NH towns held town elections and officially overwhelmingly tell us to pass a piece of legislation
36. I am so proud to be in a state where citizens can, and do act so strongly to protect the FABRIC OF DEMOCRACY ITSELF, not partisan fights but to protect a fair system...our most precious public good
37. This is the reason for the single hearing to record public input...it is only right to give all of these people a voice, pass on their comments to NH congressional delegation
38. It is free of cost
39. Allows people to submit the ways in which corruption has impacted them personally, and any specific language suggestions they have.
40. Someone once said to me that if I was undecided about something, to listen to the side that appealed to morality...the side that did not talk about what was convenient but about what was RIGHT
41. I believe that everyone in this room, in the state house, at some level, knows that the buying of influence and the cheating of voters out of an equal vote is WRONG...on some level I believe everyone here knows ignoring such a huge outcry of The People is WRONG

42. So I ask that you support this message to our congressional delegation, and this public hearing, and because nothing we do here, or in Washington, really matters...no partisan fight can ever really reflect the rule by the people, if we do not have an actual functioning democratic republic.
43. In closing I would like to distribute the list of towns that have demanded this of us, and I hope that by passing this out you look favorably upon me, because I have read the list aloud to the House Committee in the past.

Voting Sheets

**Senate Election Law
& Municipal Affairs Committee
EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORD
2019 Session**

Bill # **HB 504**

Hearing date: 5/1/19

Executive Session date: 5/29/19

Motion of: OTP Vote: 3-2

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Levesque, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Sherman, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Birdsell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Gray	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Motion of: 2153 S / Failed Vote: 2-3

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Levesque, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Sherman, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Birdsell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Gray	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion of: ~~OTP~~ Vote: _____

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Levesque, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Sherman, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Morgan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Birdsell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Gray	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Reported out by: Sen. L.

Notes: _____

Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 29, 2019

THE COMMITTEE ON Election Law and Municipal Affairs

to which was referred **HB 504**

AN ACT

relative to election-related amendments to the
United States Constitution.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

OUGHT TO PASS _____

BY A VOTE OF: 3-2

Senator Melanie Levesque
For the Committee

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

Docket of HB504

Bill Title: relative to election-related amendments to the United States Constitution.

Official Docket of HB504.:

Date	Body	Description
1/15/2019	H	Introduced 01/03/2019 and referred to Legislative Administration HJ 3 P. 17
1/16/2019	H	Public Hearing: 01/24/2019 11:15 am LOB 303
2/6/2019	H	Executive Session: 02/13/2019 12:30 pm LOB 303
2/20/2019	H	Majority Committee Report: Ought to Pass for 03/07/2019 (Vote 8-6; RC) HC 14 P. 15
2/20/2019	H	Minority Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate
3/7/2019	H	Lay on Table (Rep. Baldasaro): MF DV 161-183 03/07/2019 HJ 8 P. 52
3/7/2019	H	Ought to Pass: MA DV 200-149 03/07/2019 HJ 8 P. 52
3/19/2019	S	Introduced 03/14/2019 and Referred to Election Law and Municipal Affairs; SJ 9
4/25/2019	S	Hearing: 05/01/2019, Room 102, LOB, 09:20 am; SC 20
5/29/2019	S	Committee Report: Ought to Pass, 06/06/2019; SC 25
6/6/2019	S	Ought to Pass: RC 14Y-10N, MA; OT3rdg; 06/06/2019; SJ 19
6/18/2019	S	Enrolled (In recess 06/13/2019); SJ 21
6/18/2019	H	Enrolled 06/13/2019 HJ 19 P. 18
7/11/2019	H	Vetoed by Governor Sununu 07/10/2019.
9/18/2019	H	Veto Sustained 09/18/2019: RC 221-157 Lacking Necessary Two-Thirds Vote HJ 21 P. 36

NH House

NH Senate

Other Referrals

Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives

Bill Number: HB 504

Senate Committee: Elec. Law + MA

Please include all documents in the order listed below and indicate the documents which have been included with an "X" beside

- Final docket found on Bill Status

Bill Hearing Documents: {Legislative Aides}

Bill version as it came to the committee

All Calendar Notices

Hearing Sign-up sheet(s)

Prepared testimony, presentations, & other submissions handed in at the public hearing

Hearing Report

Revised/Amended Fiscal Notes provided by the Senate Clerk's Office

Committee Action Documents: {Legislative Aides}

All amendments considered in committee (including those not adopted):

- amendment # 2153 - amendment # _____

- amendment # _____ - amendment # _____

Executive Session Sheet

Committee Report

Floor Action Documents: {Clerk's Office}

All floor amendments considered by the body during session (only if they are offered to the senate):

- amendment # _____ - amendment # _____

- amendment # _____ - amendment # _____

Post Floor Action: (if applicable) {Clerk's Office}

Committee of Conference Report (if signed off by all members. Include any new language proposed by the committee of conference):

Enrolled Bill Amendment(s)

Governor's Veto Message

All available versions of the bill: {Clerk's Office}

as amended by the senate as amended by the house

final version

Completed Committee Report File Delivered to the Senate Clerk's Office By:

Committee Aide

Date

Senate Clerk's Office jm