

2014
Of the Mayor and Council of Princeton
Supporting Anti-Corruption Legislation

Resolution to establish as a position of Princeton, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that tough, new anti-corruption laws for politicians, lobbyists and outside groups such as Super PACs are necessary in order to protect and promote the First Amendment free speech rights of all citizens, regardless of wealth, and to restore ordinary Americans as the most important stakeholders in government instead of major donors.

WHEREAS, limits on contributions to candidates from lobbyists, Super PACs, and other groups are necessary to reduce corruption and the appearance of corruption as outlined in *Buckley v. Valeo* (1976); and,

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court held in *Nevada Comm'n on Ethics v. Carrigan* (2011) that restrictions on official actions taken by legislators in situations in which their independence of judgment is questioned do not constitute restrictions on the First Amendment free speech rights of legislators; and,

WHEREAS, closing the "revolving door", where elected representatives and senior staff sell off their legislative power for high-paying jobs, has been upheld by various courts in order to prevent employees from being "influenced in the performance of public duties by the thought of later reaping a benefit from a private individual." *Brown v. District of Columbia Board of Zoning*, 423, A.2d 1276, 1282 (D.C. App. 1980); and

WHEREAS, full transparency of all political money is necessary for the growth of an educated and informed electorate; and,

WHEREAS, with nearly \$6 billion spent in the 2012 elections, where the vast majority came from big special interest donors, politicians are dependent on a tiny percentage of the population to fundraise their campaigns while ordinary voters have less and less influence; and,

WHEREAS, federal agencies such as the Federal Election Commission routinely fail to enforce the anti-corruption rules that already exist;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that it is the position of the Mayor and Council of Princeton, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that tough, new anti-corruption laws must be passed by Congress and the state, including legislation to prohibit politicians from taking campaign money from industries they regulate; put limits on unregulated Super PACs and other groups; increase transparency for campaign funding; stop elected representatives and senior staff from negotiating jobs while in office and bar them from all lobbying activity for five years once they leave; empower all voters through a \$100 tax rebate to contribute to the candidates they support; and strengthen federal agencies and House and Senate ethics committees to enforce the rules against politicians and special interests that break campaign finance law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Princeton hereby includes in its legislative agenda support for efforts to pass its own anti-corruption legislation, and respectfully urges the 12th Congressional district representatives and the 16th district New Jersey state legislature to support and introduce anti-

corruption legislation to the U.S. House, U.S. Senate and state legislature addressing the issues herein described.

I, Linda S. McDermott, Clerk of Princeton, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of Princeton at its meeting held July 14, 2014.

Linda S. McDermott, Clerk