

**DID YOU KNOW?** Corporations VOTED to adopt this. Through ALEC, global companies work as "equals" in "unison" with politicians to write laws to govern your life. Big Business has "a VOICE and a VOTE," according to newly exposed documents. **DO YOU?**

**Resolution Supporting Citizen Involvement in Elections**

**WHEREAS**, it is the mission of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) to advance the Jeffersonian principles of individual liberty, limited government, free markets, and federalism; and

From CMD: "organize" = "organizing" into corporations

Did you know the NRA--the National Rifle Association--was the corporate co-

**WHEREAS**, the desire of citizens to **organize and support candidates** of their choice through campaign contributions indicates an engaged citizenry with a clear desire to participate in elections; and

**WHEREAS**, contributing to candidates is, next to voting itself, the most common way for citizens to be involved; and

**WHEREAS**, national data indicates that there is no correlation between campaign contributions and the integrity of the political process; and

From CMD: contrast this support for contribution disclosure with their opposition to disclosure in ALEC's 2010 "Resolution in Support of Citizens United"

**WHEREAS**, ALEC supports the disclosure of campaign contributions to candidates, political parties, and political action committees as an effective way to identify potential corruption; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Supreme Court has made it clear that the First Amendment protects the rights of individuals to support their own candidacy with their own funds without restriction;

From CMD: Translation--a millionaire has a constitutional right to spend as much of his fortune to get elected as he wishes....

**WHEREAS**, ALEC is an important, influential voice in the promotion of policies true to the Jeffersonian principles of free markets, limited government, federalism and individual liberty;

From CMD: This is a fancy way of saying that ALEC opposes limiting the amount of money that can be donated to a political campaign...

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) supports citizen involvement in elections and **opposes all efforts to limit such involvement by limiting campaign contributions.**

**ALEC EXPOSED**

"ALEC" has long been a secretive collaboration between Big Business and "conservative" politicians. Behind closed doors, they ghostwrite "model" bills to be introduced in state capitols across the country. This agenda-underwritten by global corporations--includes major tax loopholes for big industries and the super rich, proposals to offshore U.S. jobs and gut minimum wage, and efforts to weaken public health, safety, and environmental protections. Although many of these bills have become law, until now, their origin has been largely unknown. With **ALEC EXPOSED**, the Center for Media and Democracy hopes more Americans will study the bills to understand the depth and breadth of how big corporations are changing the legal rules and undermining democracy across the nation.

Adopted by the Public Safety and Elections Task Force  
May 1, 2009.

Approved by the American Legislative Exchange Council's Board of Directors  
June 6, 2009.

**Center for Media and Democracy's quick summary:**

Despite this Resolution's noble description of "citizen involvement," this Resolution supports unlimited corporate spending on elections (and opposes legislative efforts to limit it). This Resolution was issued while the U.S. Supreme Court was considering the *Citizens United v. FEC* case, and before it ordered re-argument and eventually decided to lift all limits on political spending by corporations. This Resolution's reference to "the desire of citizens to organize and support candidates of their choice" is code for "corporate spending" or "third-party spending." *Citizens United* lawyers used that language in arguing against corporate spending limits, and the Supreme Court's majority opinion adopted that framing in the decision.

Particularly notable here is the ALEC support for disclosure "as an effective way to combat corruption," a justification for unlimited spending also adopted by the U.S. Supreme Court. A year after this Resolution (and after the *Citizens United* decision), ALEC passed the "Resolution in Support of the Citizens United Decision" which expressed opposition to disclosure laws.

**ALEC's Corporate Board**  
--in recent past or present

- AT&T Services, Inc.
  - centerpoint360
  - UPS
  - Bayer Corporation
  - GlaxoSmithKline
  - Energy Future Holdings
  - Johnson & Johnson
  - Coca-Cola Company
  - PhRMA
  - Kraft Foods, Inc.
  - Coca-Cola Co.
  - Pfizer Inc.
  - Reed Elsevier, Inc.
  - DIAGEO
  - Peabody Energy
  - Intuit, Inc.
  - Koch Industries, Inc.
  - ExxonMobil
  - Verizon
  - Reynolds American Inc.
  - Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
  - Salt River Project
  - Altria Client Services, Inc.
  - American Bail Coalition
  - State Farm Insurance
- For more on these corporations, search at [www.SourceWatch.org](http://www.SourceWatch.org).