

## Resolution 5

### Resolution To Support a U.S. Constitutional Amendment to Limit Money in Politics

WHEREAS ELCA Lutherans view government as a gift from God, intended for the safety and flourishing of human life, and

WHEREAS We as Christians and members of the ELCA are called to love and care for our neighbor, especially the most vulnerable, as we live in a current system of money in politics that undervalues the voice of people without wealth, and

WHEREAS This is a political, not partisan, issue, and

WHEREAS We are reminded of Luther's teachings to reclaim our role as citizens addressing economic and social injustices, and

WHEREAS Jesus was born, lived, and died in a political climate influenced by rulers such as Caesar, Herod, and Pontius Pilate and we are his followers,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

That as individuals, congregations and members of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin, we educate ourselves about the issues of money in politics and our role as Christians by holding educational events at congregational and synod level and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

that we will advocate for economic justice by working with Wisconsin United to Amend and communities across the state to defend democracy from the corrupting effects of undue corporate power by amending the United States Constitution to establish that:

1. Only human beings are endowed with constitutional rights - not corporations, unions, nonprofits, or other artificial entities, and
2. Money is not speech, and therefore limiting political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting speech, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

that, individuals and/or congregations will work together with our state and federal legislators to get a constitutional amendment passed to limit money in politics.

Endorsed by –

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**Resolutions Committee Recommendation:**

Submit to Synod Assembly for consideration and possible action.

**Resolutions Committee Rationale:**

The proposed resolution merits the attention of the Assembly.

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Notes or Resources

Lindberg, Carter and Wee, Paul, editors. (2016) [The Forgotten Luther: Reclaiming the Social-Economic Dimension of the Reformation \(The Forgotten Luther\)](#). Minneapolis: Lutheran University Press.

Wisconsin United to Amend <https://wiuta.org>

Article - [Social Statement](#), Wisconsin United to Amend

Lutheran Office of Public Policy in Wisconsin <https://www.loppw.org>

Article - ELCA Votes <https://www.loppw.org/resources/elcavotes-2/>

Article - [Money And Politics: The Gradual Distortion Of American Politics And Its Impact On Poverty – What Does The Church Have To Say?](#)

ELCA Social Messages and Statements

2020 [ELCA Social Message on Government and Civic Engagement](#) in the United States:

Discipleship in a Democracy

[US Election Campaign Finance Reform](#) Social Policy Resolution, adopted by the 1995

ELCA Churchwide Assembly

ELCA Social Statements:

[Economic Life](#)

[Church in Society](#)

[Draft - Civic Life and Faith](#)