

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 31

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States regarding the permissible sources of funding for elections for public office and State ballot measures.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 2015

Mr. MCNERNEY introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States regarding the permissible sources of funding for elections for public office and State ballot measures.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled*
3 *(two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the fol-*
4 lowing article is proposed as an amendment to the Con-
5 stitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all
6 intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when
7 ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several
8 States within seven years after the date of its submission
9 for ratification:

1 “ARTICLE —

2 “SECTION 1. The only source of funding to directly
3 or indirectly support or oppose a campaign for election
4 to public office shall be either contributions by individual
5 citizens to the principal campaign committee controlled by
6 the candidate or funds provided under a system of public
7 election financing or voter education established by Con-
8 gress, the State, or other jurisdiction as appropriate.

9 “SECTION 2. The only source of funding that may
10 be used to directly or indirectly support or oppose a ballot
11 measure to amend a State constitution or other initiatives
12 or referenda shall be either contributions made by individ-
13 uals who are eligible to vote on the measure or funds pro-
14 vided under a system of public election financing or voter
15 education established by the State.

16 “SECTION 3. Congress, the States, and local jurisdic-
17 tions shall establish limits on the amount of contributions
18 individuals may make with respect to a single campaign
19 for election to Federal, State, or local office, respectively,
20 including limits on the amount of contributions an indi-
21 vidual who is a candidate for such office may make with
22 respect to the individual’s own campaign, and the States
23 and local jurisdictions shall establish limits on the amount
24 of contributions individuals may make with respect to a
25 ballot measure. The total of combined contributions to the

1 principal campaign committee of a candidate from citizens
2 who are not eligible to vote for the candidate shall not
3 exceed the total of combined contributions from citizens
4 who are eligible to vote for the candidate.

5 “SECTION 4. Congress and the States shall have the
6 power to carry out this article through appropriate legisla-
7 tion.

8 “SECTION 5. Nothing in this article shall be con-
9 strued to grant Congress or the States the power to
10 abridge the freedom of the press.”.

