

WARRANT ARTICLE PETITION FORM*

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 FEB 17 2017
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Filed _____ 20015 _____ of clock _____ .m.
 Month Day

The undersigned registered voters of the Town of Amherst submit the following article and request that it be placed on the Warrant for the Special/Annual Town Meeting of April 26th, 2017

(Article wording must appear, in its entirety, on every petition form submitted to Select Board)

Resolution Supporting State and Federal Legislation to Provide Greater Transparency in Political Donations and Limit the Influence of Money in Politics

WHEREAS, recent changes in funding and disclosure rules for national, state and local political elections have degraded the goals of the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, a recent decision by the Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF) now allows an infusion of previously prohibited out-of-state money to influence local and state elections, new legislation is now required to prohibit such funding from circumventing Massachusetts state law; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to restore voter confidence in our democracy, a grassroots movement known as "Represent.Us" is working for legislative reforms to reduce the opportunity for corruption within the political system in our country by supporting a legislative reform bill known as the "American Anti-Corruption Act" (the Act); and

WHEREAS, the Act targets bribery by preventing lobbyists from donating to politicians and influencing policymaking; ends secret money by mandating full transparency; enables citizens to fund elections; closes the revolving door between Congress and lobbying firms; and enhances the power of the Federal Election Commission; and

WHEREAS, this national organization's local chapter, Represent.US Western Mass, sought and promoted an advisory referendum; specifically in the Hampshire/Franklin State Senate District (currently held by Stan Rosenberg) to build support for this initiative; and

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2014, the citizens of of the above mentioned district were given the opportunity to be heard on this topic through the above advisory referendum where the question received 84 percent aggregate support across the entire district, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Meeting of the Town of Amherst, Massachusetts that this town meeting supports tough new anti-corruption laws to close loopholes in Massachusetts' campaign finance regulations that currently allows unregulated out-of-state money to infiltrate state and local elections; and we support the goals outlined in the American Anti-Corruption Act to remove the corrupting influence of money on our political system. The Act prohibits politicians from taking campaign money from special interest groups including private industries and unions; increases transparency for campaign funding; empowers all voters through a tax rebate voucher to contribute to the candidates they support; prohibits representatives and senior staff from all lobbying activity for five years once they leave office; and places limits on superPACs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Meeting of the Town of Amherst implores our elected representatives in Boston, State Senator Rosenberg and Rep. Goldstein-Rose and in Washington, Sen. Edward Markey and Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Rep. McGovern (or their successors) to lead this effort to enact these initiatives in Massachusetts and in the U.S. Congress.

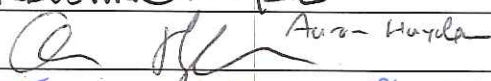
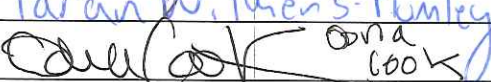
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Town of Amherst is hereby directed to give notice to the above representatives by sending a certified copy of this resolution to each of them.

*To be filed with the SELECT BOARD before NOON on February 28th 2017.

✓	SIGNATURE to be made in person with name substantially as registered**	NOW REGISTERED AT street, number and apt. or room number MUST APPEAR	Residence on January 1, 20 Street, number and apt. or room number
1.	<i>Laura E. Fitch</i> Laura Fitch	120 Pulpit Hill Rd #7	
2.	LYONS WITEN	120 Pulpit Hill Rd #7	
3.	<i>Beth Sifter</i> Beth Sifter	120 Pulpit Hill Rd #30	

Place additional signatures on back of this page

**Any voter who is prevented by physical disability from writing may authorize some person to write his name and residence in his presence. (M.G.L. Chapter 53, §7)

✓	SIGNATURE to be made in person with name substantially as registered**	NOW REGISTERED AT street, number and apt. or room number MUST APPEAR	Residence on January 1, 20 Street, number and apt. or room number
4.	Christopher Prather	58 SUNSET AVE	
5.	Brenda Davies	15 Cortland Drive	
6.	Thomas Davies	15 Cortland Dr	
7.	KRISTINE ROYAL	22 HIGH ST #2	
8.		1491 South East St.	
9.	Taran Wilkens-Plumley	68 Pine Grove	
10.	 <small>ONNA COOK</small>	580 MARKET HILL	
11.	Dylan Tomalin	580 Market Hill Rd	
12.	Andrew Parker-Renye	45 WOODSIDE AVE	
13.	DENISE GAGNON	16 ALYSSUM DRIVE	
14.	Erika Shelburne	851 S. East St.	
15.	LAURA WEAR	143 LINCOLN AVE	
16.	JUDITH STRAYER	226 E. PLEASANT ST.	
17.	Sarah McAlpine	161 A Chestnut St	
18.	Sabra Mont	22 Charles Lane	
19.	Lisa Rutherford	5 Wintergreen Cir	
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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Amherst Feb 17 20 17

We certify that 19 of the above signatures checked are names of qualified voters in the Town of Amherst.

Filed by Thomas Davies
 Organization _____
 Residence 15 Cortland Dr.
 Phone 413 530 2871
 E-Mail Address tdavies@amherst.edu