

By: Senator(s) Frazier

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 547

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PETITIONING THE UNITED STATES  
2 CONGRESS TO CONVENE A LIMITED CONVENTION FOR THE EXCLUSIVE PURPOSE  
3 OF PROPOSING A FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED  
4 STATES CONSTITUTION.

5 WHEREAS, elections in the United States of America should be  
6 free from corruption and fair enough that any citizen can be  
7 elected into office; and

8 WHEREAS, the first President of the United States George  
9 Washington said, "The basis of our political systems is the right  
10 of the people to make and to alter their Constitutions of  
11 Government" (*Farewell Address*, 1796); and

12 WHEREAS, it was the stated intention of the framers of the  
13 Constitution of the United States of America that the Congress  
14 should be "dependent on the people alone" (James Madison,  
15 *Federalist 52*); and

16 WHEREAS, that dependency has evolved from a dependency on the  
17 people alone to a dependency on those who spend excessively in  
18 elections directly and via third-party groups; and



19           WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court rulings in *Citizens*  
20 *United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010) removed restrictions  
21 on independent political spending; and

22           WHEREAS, the removal of those restrictions has resulted in a  
23 corruption of our political process and the undue influence of  
24 powerful economic forces which have supplanted the will of the  
25 people by undermining our ability to choose our political  
26 leadership, write our own laws, and determine the fate of our  
27 state and the nation as a whole; and

28           WHEREAS, the Tenth Amendment to the United States  
29 Constitution states: "The powers not delegated to the United  
30 States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States,  
31 are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people," which,  
32 until 2010, had consistently been interpreted as allowing the  
33 states to establish their own laws governing the financing of  
34 elections; and

35           WHEREAS, the American people, when asked, overwhelmingly  
36 express their desire to remove the corrupting influence of money  
37 from our political process; and

38           WHEREAS, the United States Congress has been unresponsive to  
39 this expressed will of the American citizenry in addressing the  
40 problem of corrupting money in politics; and

41           WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Mississippi affirms  
42 that governments are for the benefit of the people (Section 5) and



43 that the people have the right to effect reform when it is not  
44 (Section 6); and

45 WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution requires  
46 the United States Congress to convene a Convention for proposing  
47 amendments upon application of two-thirds of the Legislatures of  
48 the several states; and

49 WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi sees the need for a  
50 convention to propose amendments in order to respond to the will  
51 of the people and address the corrupting influence of money in our  
52 political process including, inter alia, relevant decisions by the  
53 United States Supreme Court, and desires that said Convention be  
54 so limited:

55 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
56 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
57 pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution, we do  
58 hereby petition the United States Congress to convene a limited  
59 Convention to propose amendments to the federal Constitution for  
60 the exclusive purpose of protecting Free and Fair Elections in the  
61 United States by removing the corrupting influence of excessive  
62 spending in our electoral process, by addressing inter alia  
63 concerns raised by *Citizens United v. FEC* and related decisions,  
64 as soon as two-thirds of the states have approved similar  
65 applications for a Convention.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the State of Mississippi desires  
67 that the delegates to said Convention shall be comprised equally



68 of individuals currently elected to state and local office, or be  
69 selected by election, in each Congressional District for the  
70 purpose of serving as delegates, though all individuals elected or  
71 appointed to federal office, now or in the past, be prohibited  
72 from serving as delegates to the Convention, and intends to retain  
73 the ability to restrict or expand the power of its delegates  
74 within the limits expressed above.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the State of Mississippi intends  
76 that this be a continuing application considered together with  
77 applications calling for a Convention passed in the 2013-2014  
78 Vermont Legislature as Senate Joint Resolution No. 27 (160  
79 *Congressional Record* S4331, POM-284), the 2013-2014 California  
80 Legislature's Assembly Joint Resolution No. 1 (160 *Congressional*  
81 *Record* S5507, POM-320), the 2013-2014 Illinois Legislature's  
82 Senate Joint Resolution No. 42, the 2014-2015 New Jersey State  
83 Legislature's Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 132, and all other  
84 past, pending, and future applications for a Convention of similar  
85 purpose until at least two-thirds of the several states have  
86 applied for and Congress has convened a Convention.

87 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That certified copies of this  
88 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,  
89 the Vice President of the United States in his capacity as  
90 Presiding Officer of the United States Senate and addressed to him  
91 at Suite No. S-212, United States Capitol Building, Washington,  
92 D.C., the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,



93 the Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives,  
94 the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, all members of  
95 Mississippi's congressional delegation with the respectful request  
96 that the full and complete text of this joint resolution be  
97 entered into the Congressional Record as an official memorial to  
98 Congress from the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, and to  
99 the presiding officers of the Legislatures of each of the  
100 remaining states that have not yet applied to Congress for such a  
101 Convention on this subject with the respectful request that they  
102 consider the adoption of similar legislation.

