

House Resolution 181

By: Representatives Frye of the 118th, Kendrick of the 93rd, Smith of the 41st, Holly of the 111th, Douglas of the 78th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Applying to Congress for a limited national convention for the exclusive purpose of
2 proposing an amendment to the United States Constitution that will restore balance and
3 integrity to our elections; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the framers of the Constitution of the United States of America intended that
5 the Congress of the United States of America should be "dependent on the people alone"
6 (James Madison, Federalist 52); and

7 WHEREAS, that dependency has evolved from a dependency on the people alone to a
8 dependency on powerful special interests, through campaigns or third-party groups, that has
9 created a fundamental imbalance in our representative democracy; and

10 WHEREAS, Americans across the political spectrum agree that elections in the United States
11 of America should be free from the disproportional influence of special interests and be
12 balanced enough that any citizen can be elected to office; and

13 WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Georgia states: "Government is instituted for the
14 protection, security, and benefit of the people; and at all times they have the right to alter or
15 reform the same whenever the public good may require it." (Article I, Section II, Paragraph
16 II); and

17 WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution requires Congress to call a
18 convention for proposing amendments to the federal Constitution on the application of
19 two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states; and

20 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly perceives the need for a convention in order to
21 restore balance and integrity to our elections by proposing an amendment to the federal
22 Constitution that will permanently protect free and fair elections in America by addressing,
23 inter alia, issues raised by the decisions of the United States Supreme Court in Citizens

24 United v. Federal Election Commission (2010), 130 S.Ct. 876, and related cases and events,
25 and desires that said convention should be so limited; and

26 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia desires that the delegates to said convention shall be
27 composed equally of individuals currently elected to state or local office, or be selected by
28 election, in each congressional district for the purpose of serving as delegates, and that all
29 individuals elected or appointed to federal office, now or in the past, be prohibited from
30 serving as delegates to the convention, and intends to retain the ability to restrict or expand
31 the power of its delegates within the limits expressed herein; and

32 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia intends that this be a continuing application considered
33 together with applications calling for a convention passed in the 2013-2014 Vermont
34 legislature as R454, the 2013-2014 California legislature as Resolution Chapter 77, the 98th
35 Illinois General Assembly as SJR 42, the 2014-2015 New Jersey legislature as SCR 132, the
36 2015-2016 Rhode Island legislature as HR 7670 and SR 2589, and all other passed, pending,
37 and future applications until such time as two-thirds of the several states have applied for a
38 convention for a similar purpose and said convention is convened by Congress.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
40 the members of this body, pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution, hereby
41 apply to the United States Congress to call a convention for the exclusive purpose of
42 proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America that will restore
43 free and fair elections as described herein.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
45 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
46 President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States in his capacity as
47 presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
48 Representatives, the Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the
49 President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, to each senator and representative from
50 Georgia in the Congress of the United States with the respectful request that the full and
51 complete text of this resolution be printed in the congressional record, and to the presiding
52 officers of each legislative body of each of the several states.