

MOVE TO AMEND

a project of the CAMPAIGN TO LEGALIZE DEMOCRACY



CALL TO ACTION: Mobilize Our Communities for July 4, 2010!

As the *Campaign to Legalize Democracy* pushes for an amendment to abolish Corporate Personhood, we have two goals: to create momentum around the campaign and help communities declare their independence from corporate rule. We are calling for a nationwide day of action on July 4th and are asking communities around the country to plan their own events. This day of action will be preceded and followed by ongoing actions that create thriving local democracies and allow people to demonstrate their power against the corporations doing damage in their hometowns.

Each community is different and we encourage you to come up with creative ways to address the problems in your own areas. The following is a list of ideas to get you started...

- **Many communities host 4th of July parades**, and having a float is a great way to have fun and get publicity. Get a team together and design and build a float for the parade. Some ideas for themes: "Declare your TRUE independence: Abolish corporate rule!" "WWJD? What Would Jefferson Do?" "The Best Democracy Money Can Buy!" "Overrule the Court!" "Money Talks, and Louder Than You!" Make your float visually exciting. Have people dress as founding mothers and fathers, make a huge Declaration of Independence, create a huge check made out to corporate America or a trillion dollar bill with the Exxon logo where a president's face normally goes. During the parade, toss out Legalize Democracy buttons and hand out informational fliers.
- **Stage a life-size Monopoly game around the main square of town.** Have some people dress as laborers, teachers, sick people and the elderly, and dress others in top hats, pinstripe suits and canes. Replace the traditional Monopoly properties with things like healthcare, education, environment, and free speech. Rig the game so that the corporate elites get all the properties and get out of jail free.
- **Build a traveling democracy bandwagon to take the media and free speech back from corporations.** Every month, the traveling democracy ringleader will pull the bandwagon into a public space and put on a *Demockery and Democracy show*. The first part of the show can feature a satirical performance showing how corporations are making a mockery of democracy, e.g., doctors jumping through hoops made of insurance papers to get to their sick patients. In the second part of the performance, any person in the community can step up to the bandwagon and give a short speech on any topic they want.
- **Stage a sit-in or a lock-down demanding at the headquarters of a corporation that is doing a lot of damage in your community.** Demand that they clean up their act in some specific way, and don't leave until you are arrested or they agree to your demands. Alternatively, stage a sit-in or lockdown at the office of a local official who has ignored the people in favor of corporations.
- **Host a community event where you and/or other speakers brief the audience about the corporate rule and the Campaign to Legalize Democracy.** We have speakers available to travel to your town. Afterward, have audience members write their own Declarations of Independence from corporate power and then ask them to staple them to poles around the city.

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- **Visit with the CEO of a big corporation in your community and congratulate him/her on receiving all the power they need to set the agenda for America**, to drown out the voices of everyday Americans and to take the pesky responsibility for self-governance out of the hands of We the People. Present a big oversized golden megaphone to make your point, and take a nice photo or video!

Tips for Getting Started

No matter what action you decide to do, you will need to prepare! Here are some tips for getting started:

- **Get a group of people together.** Make a list of people you know who are outraged about corporate rule and invite them to a planning meeting at your house. Contact the heads of local organizations who should care about this issue and invite them, too. At the meeting, talk about why abolishing Corporate Personhood is important to you, invite others to share their feelings, and then start brainstorming what your community can do.
- **Pick your 4th of July actions as soon as possible** and then delegate committees for permits, costumes and props, recruitment, fundraising and media. The sooner you start the more fun it will be.
- **If you want to be in a parade, table or participate in a community event**, find out which organization or city department is in charge and contact them immediately. They can tell you if you need to fill out permits or paperwork to get involved.
- **If you are going to be doing artistic actions**, check to see if there is an arts collective, circus troupe, performing arts group or political organizing group that could get involved. Ask to meet with them, brief them on Corporate Personhood and ask them to get involved. Invite them to your initial brainstorming meeting or work with them to develop an artistic direct action plan.
- **If you want to stage a sit-in or a lock-down**, you will need help from direct action organizers. Check in your local community to see if there are people who teach non-violence training and/or have experience organizing direct actions against corporations. Have them meet with your group and pick a target, develop a strategy, and pick people to perform different roles, including who will risk arrest and who will act as liaison between the group and the police and media.
- **Whether you are planning direct actions or the 4th of July event, make sure to contact the media.** Write a press release before your event and call newspapers and television reporters before the event to remind them to come. Prepare brief talking points and deliver a clear message. Pick a media point person to coordinate the media subcommittee, do interviews and coordinate your message. See our website for tips about working with the media.
- **Don't forget to take photos and capture video of the event.** And make sure to let us know about your actions so we can publicize them on our website and spread the word!