



CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

Council Committee of the Whole

June 5, 2025

6:00 PM

City Hall – Council Chambers

Agenda

- 1) Call to Order/Roll Call**
- 2) Welcome**
12th Annual Democracy Day Public Hearing
- 3) Purpose of Democracy Day**
 - a. Cleveland Heights Codified Ordinances - Chapter 183: Political Influence by Corporate Entities
- 4) How It Works**
Speakers have 5 minutes to testify. Please fill out the comment request form if you wish to speak.
- 5) Democracy Day Speakers**
 - Greg Coleridge
 - Madelon Watts
 - Carla Rautenberg
 - Anne Caruso
 - Wendy Deuring
 - Steve Norris
 - Dean Sieck
 - Suzanne DeGaetano
 - Frances Chiappa
- 6) Additional Testimony from Audience**
- 7) Councilmember Testimony/Reflection**
- 8) Adjourn**

TITLE FIFTEEN- Political Influence

Chap. 183. Political Influence by Corporate Entities.

CHAPTER 183

Political Influence by Corporate Entities

183.01 Public hearing.

183.02 Letter to state and U.S. representatives.

183.03 Hearing no longer required when State Constitutional Amendment ratified.

183.01 PUBLIC HEARING.

Beginning in 2014, City Council shall hold a public hearing during the month of June each year to examine the impact on our City, our state and our nation of political influence by corporate entities and big money in connection with the most recent election. Corporate entities include business corporations, Political Action Committees, Super PACs, 501 c4 groups and unions. Members of the general public in attendance shall be afforded the opportunity to speak on these matters for up to five (5) minutes per person. The public hearing shall be held during an evening or weekend time. The City will publicize the public hearing on its website and in area media at least two (2) weeks in advance. The City shall record the minutes of the hearing and make them available to the public no later than August 1 of each year by posting them on the City's website. (Ord. 155-2021. Passed 12-20-21.)

183.02 LETTER TO STATE AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVES.

Within one (1) week following the annual Public Hearing, the Clerk of City Council shall send a letter to the leaders of the Ohio House and Senate, to our U.S. Congressional Representative, and to both Ohio Senators. The letter shall include a brief summary of the Public Hearing and will state that the citizens of Cleveland Heights in November 2013 voted in support of a Citizens' Initiative calling for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution declaring:

- (a) Only human beings, not corporations, are legal persons with Constitutional rights; and
- (b) Money is not equivalent to speech, and therefore, regulating political contributions and spending does not equate to limiting political speech.

(Approved by voters 11-5-13.)

183.03 HEARING NO LONGER REQUIRED WHEN STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT RATIFIED.

The annual Public Hearings will no longer be required if and when a Constitutional Amendment reflecting the principles set forth in Section 183.02 is ratified by three-quarters (3/4) of the state legislatures.

(Approved by voters 11-5-13.)