

The 2010 Punditalia Congressional/Senatorial Platform

Our political platform for 2010 is little changed from that of 2008. The things that needed to be done then still need to be done. We suggested that troops be redeployed from Iraq to Afghanistan and, to some extent, that has been done, but while a watered down health care law has been enacted, nearly all 41 of our 2008 platform prescriptions have been inadequately addressed.

In the past two years, the reluctance of Congress to do anything to resolve the problems facing the country suggests that bold changes must be made if the country is not to go into irreversible decline. In ruling that corporations are persons and that money is speech, the Supreme Court has pushed the country further down the road to Fascism. It may be too late to save the country, just as it's late to save the Gulf Coast, but let's try. Two measures would go a long way toward that goal.

A Constitutional Amendment is needed to define the rights granted by the Constitution as belonging to people, not corporations, something that was self-evident to the founders. Organizations may enjoy certain rights as defined in their charters and as set forth in laws, but not at the expense of people's Constitutional rights.

Secondly, whereas judges are routinely and rightfully expected to reclude themselves from cases in which they have a material interest, members of the House and the Senate currently receive vast amounts of money from corporations and other special interest organizations which they have the power to regulate and reward. Members of Congress should be required to reclude themselves from participating in any discussion or vote on laws that will benefit any organization that has contributed money to their campaign funds or personal wealth, either directly or through lobbyists. When judges or administrators take money from interested parties, it is called bribery. In Congress, such funds are known as campaign contributions. I propose that those taking such money and not disqualifying themselves from the relative legislation should be prosecuted and jailed for corruption. The removal of the control of Congress from the hands of lobbyists should also be spurred on by the limiting of political campaigns to one or two months.