

## Excerpts from the first report of the Citizens Commission – 12/31/19

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/citizens-commission-2019-report>

### Regarding Constitutional rights for real people, not artificial entities:

“The Commission believes artificial entities do not possess the inalienable Constitutional rights of the People. However, it is critical to recognize the serious implications of addressing this topic too broadly in a constitutional amendment. The Commission requires further advice, study and deliberation about how an amendment may best affirm that corporations or other artificial entities do not have the same rights as human beings.”

### Regarding money in politics:

"There is consensus on the Commission that a constitutional amendment can be effectively drafted to enable citizens in Massachusetts (and other states) to consider approaches to independent expenditures and campaign contributions that would ensure both that money impacting elections comes from a broad cross-section of citizens (rather than predominantly from a concentrated “donor class” or artificial entities) and that the interests of local constituents and states are not overwhelmed by vast amounts of money.”

### Regarding the Article V amendment-proposing convention process:

*"Article V Convention Route:* After significant review of a broad collection of materials, the Commission supports the initiative for a limited-purpose convention under Article V. The intent is to either propose the amendment or to force the issue in Congress. In the final report, the Commission intends to outline this option and make direct recommendations to the Commonwealth on how it might proactively accelerate this initiative, but in the meantime, the Commission is supportive of any efforts in the Legislature, or the Commonwealth more broadly. The Commission encourages the Massachusetts Legislature, the Governor, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General to proactively promote this process. While the intention of this recommendation comes with the goal of spurring an Article V convention, our hope is that serious movement in this area would spur Congress to action, as it has historically. The Commission supports a Massachusetts application for such a limited-purpose amendment convention.”

## Please support the We the People Act (H.3208 and S.2163)

For more information on the amendment we urgently need, a limited amendment-proposing convention, and a list of online videos, see:

<http://bit.do/CitizensCommission>



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