

In fact, the Supreme Court itself has ruled down through history that corporations are indeed subject to whatever restrictions the People choose to put on them. Here are a few of the Court's pronouncements that the Roberts Five would summarily reject:

[A corporation is a] mere legal entity...not a citizen." -- Bank of the US v. Deveaux, 1809

"[A corporation is a] mere creature of law [that] possesses only those properties which the charter confers upon it." -- Chief Justice John Marshall Dartmouth College v. Woodward, 1819

"[A corporation is] an artificial being...existing only in contemplation of law [and created only for such] objects as the government wishes to promote." -- Dartmouth College

"The only rights [a corporation] can claim are the rights which are given to it in that character, and not the rights which belong to its members as citizens of a state..." -- Bank of Augusta v. Earle, 1839

"The liberty referred to in that [Fourteenth] Amendment is the liberty of natural, not artificial persons." -- Northwestern National Live Ins. Co. v. Riggs, 1906

"Neither the history nor the language of the Fourteenth Amendment justifies the belief that corporations are included within its protections." -- Conn. Life Ins. Co. v. Johnson, 1938

"It has been settled that corporations are not entitled to all of the constitutional protections which private individuals have..." -- Oklahoma Press Publishing Co. v. Walling, 1946

"It cannot be disputed that the mere creation of a corporation does not invest it with all the liberties enjoyed by natural persons..."

"It is thus an accepted part of the business landscape in this country for states to create corporations, to prescribe their powers, and to define the rights that are acquired by purchasing their shares." -- First National Bank of Boston v. Bellotti, 1978

"The unique state-conferred corporate structure that facilitates the amassing of large treasuries warrants the limit on independent expenditures." -- Austin v. Michigan Chamber of Commerce, 1990

"[Restricting corporate] electioneering communications [is based on] legislative judgment that the special characteristics of the corporate structure require particularly careful regulation." -- McConnell v. FEC, 2003

Whose money is it?

Corporations are different from you and me (beyond the obvious fact that they don't happen to be alive). When it comes to having a right to spend money in election campaigns, two intrinsic, structural realities disqualify the corporate