

Form Name:
Submission Time:

Citizens Commission
February 1, 2019 11:41 am

Name	Jack Dean
Address	<div></div> <div></div>
Phone	<div></div>
Email	<div></div>
Citizenship Affirmation	I am a U.S. Citizen
Residency Affirmation	I am a resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Statement of Intent	I intend to comply with and advance the policy established by this Act.
Statement of Interest	<p>I have been an active member of Citizens for Economic Justice (CEJ), a chapter of We the People Massachusetts, for the past 4-1/2 years and am presently its chair. I have been involved in gathering signatures for the We the People Act, hosting seminars, addressing Committees during hearings on the bill, signature gathering for People Govern Not Money's Question 3, etc. during this time. I am driven by my strong belief that unregulated money and lack of transparency in our election process is at the root of many of the social problems facing our country's citizens at this time. I'm a retired Electrical Consulting and Facilities Engineer and am a U.S. Navy veteran. I was born in New Bedford and have been a resident of Massachusetts my whole life except for 5 years in Connecticut and 3 years of military service. I am presently 75 years old and doing some part-time electrical consulting.</p>
Résumé or Summary of Qualifications Upload	https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3282862/71887710/474467220/71887710_the_role_of_citizens_for_economic_justice.docx
Political Party Affiliation, if any, over the previous five years	Democratic
City or Town where you reside	MATTAPOISETT
Employment Status	Unemployed

The role of Citizens for Economic Justice (CEJ):

November, 2015

Citizens for Economic Justice was organized in June, 2014 as an outgrowth of a book discussion group held at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven conducted from February through May, 2014. The book was Joseph E. Stiglitz's "The Price of Inequality", published in 2013. The group's basic principle was determined to be that the U.S. Constitution should be amended to establish that:

- Political contributions and spending are not a form of protected speech under the 1st Amendment and can be regulated by Congress and the states.
- Corporations and other artificial entities are not entitled to constitutional rights

Other principles CEJ supports are:

- Accountability and responsibility, both personal and organizational
- Transparency
- Community
- Movement-building
- Dedication to We the People Massachusetts' mission, goals and tactics.
- Opposing discrimination of any kind and empowering those from communities commonly discriminated against.

Starting in June, 2014, CEJ undertook the following activities:

- We met with a Massachusetts MTA field organizer (Lee Ketlesen) and viewed a Move To Amend video/slide presentation
- We circulated petitions, obtained from MTA, which required a minimum of 200 signatures from certified voters within our District (the 10th Bristol) by a July 7th deadline. The signatures needed to be processed and verified by the State to get a non-binding question on the November 4th ballot which requested support for Congress to pass an amendment which covered the two items mentioned in 1. Above.
- We submitted the over 300 signatures we obtained, which were certified by the respective Town clerks, to the state.
- The non-binding question based on our signature gathering efforts was placed on the ballot in the 10th District and was approved by over 73% of the voters.
- Sponsored a showing of Robert Reich's movie "After Shock: Inequality for All" at both UU Fairhaven and at the Mattapoisett Public Library.
- Showed a 35-minute modified MTA slide/video presentation to audiences at the Mattapoisett Friends Meeting House, the New Bedford and Fairhaven UU churches and to students at UMass Dartmouth.
- We sponsored and hosted a visit and presentation by David Cobb, one of MTA's founding members, to over 40 people from the Greater New Bedford area at the UU Fairhaven church
- We've submitted several Press releases and Editorials to the Standard-Times newspaper.

- We met with the Standard-Times Editorial Board in early January, 2015.
- We hosted a Legislative Brunch on January 10, 2015 to which a number of area legislators were invited at the New Bedford UU church.
- After filing for Affiliate status with MTA, we realized they were pursuing too broad an agenda. We were involved with others in the State in setting up “We the People Massachusetts”.
- New Bedford’s Coalition for Social Justice (CSJ), headed up by Marlene Pollock, has voted to work with us.
- We’ve conducted phone banks at the CSJ to encourage voters to contact their congressional representatives to support the MTA sponsored bill “We the People Act” (H.3127) that was before the Legislature.
- Several of us went to an open hearing and gave testimony in support of the We the People Act before the House’s Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs.
- We have been interviewed by Fall River Community Media for a 30-minute discussion on the issues raised by Move To Amend which aired in March, 2015.
- We have been to state-wide meetings and conference calls led by We the People Massachusetts state field organizers.
- We supported the statewide effort to focus on getting Bill H.3127 passed by the State Legislature.
- We’ve hosted several videos related to escalating inequality issues; sponsored a visit and speech by Jeffrey Clements, author of the book “Corporations are Not People”.
- Most recently actively gathered signatures/spoke at forums in support of PGNM’s Question 2 which passed as a statewide ballot question in November, 2018.

Starting as a sub-committee of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven’s Social Justice Committee, the UU Purposes and Principles 1, 2 and 5 are at the core of CEJ’s mission. CEJ encouraged that church’s congregation to support the UUA General Assembly’s Congregational Study/Action Issue “Escalating Inequality”. This was subsequently adopted. The group continues to build strength and is aligned with UU Mass Action, which supports passage of an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that reserves the rights granted under the Constitution to persons, not artificial entities, and permits the federal government and the states to regulate campaign contributions.

In the Fall of 2015, CEJ utilized the UUA’s Study Guide on Escalating Inequality, along with supportive video presentations, to educate more of UUSF’s congregation and the general public on the complex issues involved in curbing this threat to the proper functioning of our democracy.

Citizens for Economic Justice is engaged in humanitarian work using the political system as one means of meeting its goals. Please plan to become engaged with us in addressing the critical issue of our time: Economic Inequality!

Jack W. Dean

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CitizensForEconomicJustice/>)

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