

Form Name:
Submission Time:

Citizens Commission
February 6, 2019 12:16 pm

Name	Laurie Ridener
Address	
Phone	
Email	
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>"Money isn't speech and corporations aren't people." -David Kairys</p> <p>What has happened in the ensuing years since the SCOTUS ruling of Citizens United v. FEC has been a travesty and has ushered in the evitable erosion of our democracy. Justice Stevens dissenting opinion sums it up perfectly, "A democracy cannot function effectively when its constituent members believe laws are being bought and sold."</p> <p>While I understand the position of the SCOTUS in their desire to uphold free speech, they were either naïve to the obvious outcome or willfully wore blinders, narrowly viewing their ruling as an academic exercise. Unfortunately, real world consequences have become apparent, where corporations, lobbyist, PACs have unfettered access and influence to our elected representatives and their loud voices and even louder bank rolls drowned out the voice of the common citizenry. Corporations should not be able to peddle their influence during the election process via gross expenditures that ultimately benefit only them. Right or left, conservative or liberal, doesn't matter. When the common people go to the ballot box, they should be confident that their votes have not been overtly influenced by biased and dishonest campaign ads, that their political leaders are not tainted by corrupting influences of lobbyists and that their vote actually matters. Otherwise, we are no different than fraudulent governments the world over. I want to be part of the effort to correct this perversion.</p>
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Résumé or Summary of Qualifications Upload	https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3282862/71887710/475738929/71887710_citizens_commission_app_summary_of_qualifications_Iridener_06feb2019.docx
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Political Party Affiliation, if any, over the previous five years	Democratic
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City or Town where you reside	NORWELL
Employment Status	Employed
Occupation	Regulatory Affairs Consultant for Biopharma companies
Employer	Erskine Mar Consulting LLC (self-employed)

Summary of Qualification: Laurie Ridener

I am a resident of Massachusetts, I am a member of the voting public – I am your average, everyday citizen concerned about the direction my country has taken and will take in the future. I am not affiliated with any political action committees or groups, I have not worked or volunteered for any political candidate, I am not beholden to anyone but my own conscience. My only involvement in politics up to this point has been to vote in every single election. But this issue of Citizens United has made my blood boil for the last 8 years and churned up a desire to personally attempt to affect meaningful change.

I believe in order for this committee to be successful and balanced, it cannot be comprised of political operatives, insiders or handlers – the regular folks of this Commonwealth must be represented as well. I am such a person. I have an undergraduate degree (Existential Philosophy – University of Colorado '79), I have worked in the biopharma industry for +30 years, and I have been a successful consultant in that industry for the last six years.