**“Glen’s Parallax Perspectives”** is a series of TV programs offering **fresh ways for people to see issues** such as foreign policy, social and economic justice, the environment, governmental functioning, and so forth. We provide **voices and viewpoints that are rarely heard in mainstream media**.

**Mainstream media, politicians, and culture see the world in conventional ways. Therefore, in order to solve problems, we need to see things in fresh ways.** Glen Anderson created this TV series to help people see things differently so we can solve problems at all levels from the local to the global.

This series title refers to “***parallax***,” which is the view you get by looking from a different perspective. For example, put one finger in front of your nose and another finger farther away. Close one eye. Then open that eye and close the other. Your fingers will seem to move. This is called a “parallax” view. **This TV series invites you to look at issues from fresh perspectives.**

Each program airs three times a week (currently every Monday at 1:30 pm, every Wednesday at 5:00 pm, and every Thursday at 9:00 pm) for the entire month on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for cable TV subscribers in Thurston County, Washington. TCTV is part of Thurston County Media. You can see their schedule at [**www.tcmedia.org**](http://www.tcmedia.org)

**You can also watch the program summarized below through your computer** at [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). All episodes of “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” are posted on this blog’s “TV Programs” part and also in one or more of the categories listed in the right side of the blog home page. Also, see information about various issues at the category headings at [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org).

Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 [**glen@parallaxperspectives.org**](mailto:glen@parallaxperspectives.org)

**🡪 I saved this document in Word format with live links.** If this document does not load or print properly for you, please e-mail me at [**glen@parallaxperspectives.org**](mailto:glen@parallaxperspectives.org) and I’ll promptly send you the links you request.

**🡪 Please invite other people to watch this video and/or read this thorough summary through these parts of my blog,** [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)**, including the categories for “TV Programs” and “Democracy” and “Judicial and Constitutional.”**

**“We the People vs. Corporate Rule: It’s up to Us”**

Glen’s Parallax Perspectives TV Series

May 2023

Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 [**glen@parallaxperspectives.org**](mailto:glen@parallaxperspectives.org)

**Glen welcomed viewers. He introduced this month’s topic and two guests:**

This month’s interview on “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” makes a solid case for amending the U.S. Constitution in a way that would greatly strengthen democracy and promote fairness and progress for the wide range of issues people care about. For a long time the Supreme Court has given business corporations constitutional rights that our nation’s founders intended only for human beings – and the Supreme Court has allowed Big Money to corrupt our elections.

Glen said he is happy to welcome two well informed guests who are savvy organizers working with the organization Move to Amend. They’ll explain how we got into this horrible problem – and how we can get out of it by passing the **“We the People”** amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

* **Greg Coleridge** is Co-Director of Move to Amend. Before that, he worked for more than three decades with the Quaker-based peace and justice organization American Friends Service Committee, where he worked on a variety of issues. He has written extensively and has served on many organizations’ boards.
* **Keyan Bliss** serves on the Board of Directors for Move to Amend. He is a community organizer working for democracy, participatory budgeting, racial justice, and better ways to protect public safety than the currently prevalent extreme policing and imprisonment because those methods hurt people and fail to solve problems.

Glen said people this TV interview will provide much more information, insights and encouragement for people who already know about these issues as well as for people who are relatively new to these issues.

**OVERVIEW of the PROBLEM: How has democracy been hurt?**

We showed this image on the TV screen. It explains why we absolutely must pass the **“We the People”** amendment in order to make progress on **all** of the issues we care about.

**We the People Amendment is Essential for All Other Issues!**

* Corporations have hijacked the US Constitution and working with the Judiciary are able to use it against us
* Green New Deal, Medicare for All, democracy reforms, economic justice, environmental policies, peace, consumer protection, worker protections -- all require addressing corporate constitutional rights
* This is a Constitutional/Democracy crisis, not simply a money in politics crisis

Glen said the people who watch his TV programs care about a wide variety of issues. He wants everyone to understand that – regardless of which issues you care about the most – passing the “We the People” amendment to the U.S. Constitution is necessary for practically all of the big issues we care about. The information we’ll share during this hour will help you make a lot more progress on your hot issues.

He asked Keyan to mention some ways in which democracy been hurt by the problems that the **“We the People”** amendment would solve.

Keyan said asking the question of how democracy has been hurt also requires asking the question, “Who has actually experienced democracy in this country?” He said the vast majority of people in the U.S. have not been experiencing democracy. He said that he – as a Black American – has not experienced genuine participatory democracy. Likewise, he said, many women have not experienced it either.

He added that a sad fact is that – contrary to popular belief – the people in the U.S. have not really been a self-governing people. He said one reason for this was that the Constitution “was written as a property rights document that added human rights as an after-thought.” Even after the first ten amendments (the Bill of Rights) provided some human rights, the Constitution as a whole still failed to define who is a person worthy of protection.

Therefore, most people in the U.S. have not been legally recognized as people worthy of constitutional protection. Women, people of color, and other kinds of people, including even poor white men who did not own property were not adequately protected. They had to fight, bleed and die for basic recognition of their humanity. He said this founding culture has continued, so our system favors property and profits over human rights.

Glen said this hour’s interview is discussing very macro-level issues.

**OVERVIEW of SOLUTION: Amend the Constitution in this smart way:**

We showed on the screen the actual wording of what the **“We the People”** amendment says. [Minor changes to this occurred when it was introduced in the 2023 Congress soon after we taped this interview, now as HJR 54.]

**Section 1. Artificial Entities Such as Corporations Do Not Have Constitutional Rights.**

The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of [natural persons](https://movetoamend.org/amendment) only.

**Section 2. Money is Not Free Speech.**

Federal, State, and local government [shall](https://movetoamend.org/wethepeopleamendment) regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures.

**Section 3. Nothing in this amendment shall be construed to abridge the freedom of the press.**

[**https://www.movetoamend.org/amendment**](https://www.movetoamend.org/amendment)

Glen said that during this hour we will explain the problems and the solution we are proposing, but first he invited Greg to briefly summarize what this constitutional amendment’s three sections mean.

Greg said this amendment has been introduced in five Congresses with practically the same wording each time. [It changed again slightly in 2023.] He said it has three sections.

He said the first section says that only people are people. The Constitution’s protections of human rights pertain only to human beings, not to artificial entities (corporations, etc.). Those entities are artificial in that they do not exist in nature, but are created by governments. Those include business corporations, non-profit corporations, labor unions, and so forth. Those artificial entities do not have the inalienable constitutional rights that our nation’s founders intended for human beings.

Greg said the second section says money is not “free speech.” He said that if money is speech, then whoever has the most money has the most speech. This violates the spirit of democracy. “We the people” – and the people we elect at local, state and national levels – have the right and power to regulate private contributions and expenditures to influence elections. Indeed, many people think election communications should be publicly funded.

He said the third section protects the freedom of the press from any misinterpretation of the first two sections. He said the First Amendment clearly protects the freedom of the press, along with freedom of speech, religion, assembly, and urging redress of grievances. He said the corporate-owned press is free because it is the press, not because it is a corporation.

**HISTORY: “We the People” created and amended the Constitution for people.**

Glen said the U.S. Constitution provides some pretty good ways of organizing our nation (separation of powers into three branches, checks and balances, and so forth), but the people who wrote it in the late 1700s had some blind spots. He asked Greg to tell us about those blind spots.

Greg said the Preamble begins with good words (“We the People”), but the rest of the Constitution did not strongly support this democratic ideal. He said some assumptions and parts of the Constitution are terribly undemocratic. We want to amend the Constitution, but constitutional scholars agree that the U.S. Constitution is one of the most difficult – perhaps the most difficult – to amend of any constitution on earth.

He said the Constitution’s undemocratic parts include a convoluted way to elect the president instead of using a national popular vote. Also, until it was amended, the Constitution had the senators chosen by state legislatures instead of by voters. The Constitution recognized slavery. The original Constitution was opposed by many people in the new nation because it failed to protect human rights in many ways, so the first ten amendments (the Bill of Rights) were written immediately because these protections were necessary in order to induce people to ratify the Constitution. He said we are still living with some of the Constitution’s problems even today.

Glen added that our nation’s founders set up the Bill of Rights to pertain to individual human beings. They did not intend for them to be extended to artificial entities such as business corporations. He also said that when the U.S. began, the sense was that if a corporation were to be created, it must be sharply restricted to a precise function rather than given unlimited powers.

Greg agreed. He said corporations were created to provide useful goods and services, not to be involved in elections or lobbying or shaping public policy. Back then, there was a great fear that if not strictly limited, corporations might rise up and crowd into the political powers that were intended for people. Indeed, he said, the American Revolution was fought not only against the King and the King’s army, but also against the King’s political/economic arm, Crown business corporations. He said in the U.S., corporations were allowed by state legislatures, which granted limited charters or licenses, intending that the corporations be subordinate. People were superior; corporations were subordinate with limited privileges (not rights) that state legislatures defined and allowed them to have. They were limited to having only the powers necessary to provide the specific goods and services for which they were created – but not to be involved in shaping public policy or governing.

**HISTORY: How were corporations given constitutional rights that should be for humans?**

Glen said that when we were talking on the phone to prepare for this TV interview, Keyan had said that in order to solve any problem, we need to understand how the problem arose. Now Glen asked Keyan to add to what Greg has said about human rights vs. property rights – and who is a “person.”

Keyan said this is the key question that Move to Amend and the **“We the People”** amendment focus upon. When we talk about the Constitution, we need to understand who is a “person,” but the people who wrote the Constitution never defined who is a “person” worthy of constitutional protections. Back then, they were thinking about constitutional protections only for rich white males over the age of 21 who owned property. Back then, those persons were only about 6% of the population, while 94% of the population of the new United States were not considered worthy of constitutional protection. Since then, he said, we have made some progress and have added 27 amendments. [We did not have time to mention that the Equal Rights Amendment to constitutionally recognize equal rights for women has not been added, despite 50 years of struggling.] The U.S.’s founding culture has been failing to recognize the humanity and personhood of so many Americans. This has been allowing all levels of government from the federal level to the local level to deny people their basic human rights and constitutional protections.

Also, he said, our nation’s founders had no intention of recognizing artificial entities (corporations, etc.) as having the inalienable constitutional human rights and protections that they intended only for human beings. Our nation’s rich elites have allowed those artificial entities to be given powers and protections that our founders had not intended. Corporations’ concentration of wealth has given them vastly more power than human beings, so we cannot compete with them effectively, and we cannot protect our interests from their domination.

Glen agreed with Keyan and said there has been a massive power grab, and we the people have been diminished because big businesses have been allowed to dominate our entire political system, including elections.

While preparing for this TV interview, Greg mentioned to Glen that corporations were chartered by individual states for very specific purposes, and limited by strict standards to protect the public from dangers and abuses and excessive power. Greg had mentioned the analogy of a corporate charter and a license to practice a particular profession.

**HISTORY: “Big Money” is NOT “free speech.”**

Glen said both guests disagree with the Supreme Court’s decisions that confuse spending money with “free speech.” He said that a few days ago Greg had told him that while Americans know that “Big Money” is a problem in funding election campaigns, people are less aware that the Supreme Court has been confused about spending money as a constitutional right to “free speech.” He invited Greg to share information and insights about this.

Greg said the Supreme Court’s 2010 *Citizens United* decision made that problem even worse than it had been since another decision [*Buckley v. Valeo* in 1976]. He said money is not speech; money is property. The mistaken notion that money is speech means that the people who have the most money have more right to speech than the rest of us do. He said that’s bad for democracy. He said corporate entities and extremely rich individuals have hijacked that notion and have been speaking so loudly that they have drowned out the voices of people who do not have money. This means our voices are not heard, and our needs are not met. This also has allowed corporations to abuse our natural world.

Glen said he agreed with Greg and remembered paying attention to the 1976 *Buckley v. Valeo* decision and thinking it was a stupid, stupid decision. He said the Supreme Court compounded their stupidity with the *Citizens United* decision and several other bad decisions.

He said his June 2022 TV program focused entirely on how Big Money was corrupting our government. He interviewed Beth Rotman, a lawyer who directs the Money in Politics & Ethics Program of Common Cause ([**https://www.commoncause.org**](https://www.commoncause.org)), which for 50 years has been working hard for government to be honest and effective. People can watch the TV interview and/or read a thorough summary of what we said at this link to Glen’s blog: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/big-money-in-elections-corrupts-our-government**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/big-money-in-elections-corrupts-our-government)

**SOLUTION: This constitutional amendment would solve the problems!**

We showed on the screen this image stating the text of the **“We the People”** amendment that all three of us want. [Minor changes to this occurred when it was introduced as HJR 54 in the 2023 Congress soon after we taped this interview.]

**Section 1. Artificial Entities Such as Corporations Do Not Have Constitutional Rights.**

The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of only.

**Section 2. Money is Not Free Speech.**

Federal, State, and local government [shall](https://movetoamend.org/wethepeopleamendment) regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures

**Section 3. Nothing in this amendment shall be construed to abridge the freedom of the press.**

[**https://www.movetoamend.org/amendment**](https://www.movetoamend.org/amendment)

Glen said our interview has identified some problems. Now we started exploring a smart solution: the **“We the People”** amendment that our guests and their organization – Move to Amend – are promoting. He said he supports it too.

He showed on the screen the very brief, straightforward wording of the **“We the People”** amendment. We saw that it has 3 sections. We discussed each of these three sections in the next few minutes.

First Glen asked a question of Keyan and a question for Greg.

Before our interview, Keyan had told Glen that this is more than a political issue. Keyan said it’s a human rights issue for everyone. Glen invited Keyan to share his insights about this with our TV viewers.

Keyan said ending corporate rule is a human rights issue that intersects with every struggle for justice that people are working on nowadays. He said the Constitution was largely about property rights that added human rights as an afterthought. We have made some progress, but we have been struggling in a culture that empowers corporations with rights that had been intended for human beings. Furthermore, the extremely rich owners of big corporations have created a system that oppresses people and divides our society through arbitrary social lines of race, sex and class. The system segregates demographic groups into competing segments so they will fight against each other. This makes it easier for the rich elites to control and exploit them.

Keyan said Move to Amend wants people to join together, see the shared realities, and work for a people-centered democracy.

Also, before our interview, Greg had told Glen that we need to challenge the status quo because the status quo is not like a permanent law of nature. Political and legal systems were created, so they can be changed. Glen invited Greg to say more about this.

Greg said the challenge before us – to amend the Constitution – is daunting; “it’s a heavy lift” that has been done only 27 times. He said the powers want us to feel that corporate rule is necessary – like the law of gravity or the sun rising and setting every day – so the powers want to maintain the status quo. But the status quo of corporate rule was done deliberately, so we can deliberately organize to undo it.

He said to accomplish this, we need to come together. He said that’s why this TV episode’s subtitle is, “It’s up to Us.” We need to come together, organize, and participate in the learning curve. He said Move to Amend is doing this, and this TV program is part of informing the public so more people can participate in the learning curve. We need to work together to organize a democracy movement to accomplish the necessary change.

He said, “If the political leaders don’t see the light, we’ve got to make sure they feel the heat.”

**Section 1 of this amendment deals with the rights of humans vs. the “rights” of corporations:**

Our interview proceeded by explaining each of the three sections of the **“We the People”** amendment, so we showed it on the screen again. [Minor changes to this occurred when it was introduced in the 2023 Congress soon after we taped this interview, and it was given a new bill number, HJR 54 By mid-May 2023, it had 45 co-sponsors.]

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Glen said this about the amendment’s **Section 1**: The Constitution NEVER mentions corporations, so the legal understandings we have now were set up by the Supreme Court – and to a lesser extent by Congress – but they are NOT in the Constitution. We need to understand how they got us into the mess we are in now. He agreed with Greg that “We the People” need to rise up and support the **“We the People”** amendment.

**We did not have time to say this on TV:**

The “corporate personhood” doctrine emerged from an 1886 Supreme Court decision (*Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific Railroad Company*), in which a court clerk misunderstood the court’s decision and inserted into an official document a misunderstanding that has been held to establish “corporate personhood” as the law of the land.

Likewise, because corporations have erroneously been given the rights intended only for human beings, the Fourth Amendment’s protection from “search and seizure” has been applied to them, so now a warrant is said to be needed in order to inspect a corporation’s activities.

Over and over again, big, rich business corporations have paid lawyers to insert big business corporations’ interests into our legal system.

**Section 2 of this amendment specifies that money is NOT “speech”:**

Next we discussed section 2, which says:

**Section 2. Money is Not Free Speech.**

Federal, State, and local government [shall](https://movetoamend.org/wethepeopleamendment) regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures

Glen said that a moment ago we briefly mentioned **Section 2**, which would reverse the Supreme Court’s horribly stupid decisions that seriously damaged our democracy by ruling that spending money is free speech. This is the second problem that the proposed constitutional amendment would solve. The first section says that artificial entities such as corporations do not have the constitutional rights that our founders intended for human beings only. The second section would reverse the mistaken notion that spending money – even spending on elections – is “free speech” protected by the First Amendment.

Spending money is not the same as exercising free speech. We must regulate “Big Money.” Now the American people understand this because they see how the 2010 *Citizens United* decision and other Supreme Court decisions have increased this corruption of democracy.

Next we need people to see other aspects of constitutional rights in addition to the “Big Money” aspects and see how big business corporations’ excessive powers have hurt our constitutional rights in other ways. We must sharply restrict corporate abuses in several ways, besides the “Big Money” aspect.

**Section 3 of this amendment protects the First Amendment’s freedom of the press:**

Then we showed Section 3 on the screen and explained it briefly:

**Section 3. Nothing in this amendment shall be construed to abridge the freedom of the press.**

In order to avoid causing new problems, **Section 3** of the **“We the People”** amendment clarifies press freedom.

Glen said that – as Greg had said a few minutes before – **Section 3** protects the First Amendment’s protection of the free press by saying that the **“We the People”** amendment cannot be misunderstood in ways that would hurt the press.

Greg said now that when they have lobbied, some Congress people have expressed worry that this amendment would hurt the press. He said that actually now, most of the press is owned by business corporations, but what gives the press their freedom is not the fact that they are corporations, but rather the fact that they are the press. He said the Supreme Court has repeatedly protected press freedom. Our amendment protects the press instead of the corporation.

**We explained how Congress can amend the Constitution:**

Glen said he wants people to understand our proposal for amending the Constitution in the way we’ve been discussing. He briefly explained the process.

He said the Constitution provides that it can be amended if 2/3 of the members of the House of Representatives **and** 2/3 of the members of the Senate pass the amendment – **and** if ¾ of the states also ratify the amendment.

These are three high hurdles, so the Constitution has been amended only 27 times. The first 10 amendments (a package called the Bill of Rights) were added immediately because these protections of our rights were necessary in order to get the 13 original states to adopt the Constitution. Since then it has been amended only 17 times in more than 200 years.

All three of us here are skilled grassroots organizers. We know that adding the **“We the People”** amendment to the Constitution is a serious challenge. Near the end of this TV interview we’ll talk about the organization that all three of us support: **Move to Amend** – and we’ll encourage more people to join in organizing a broad-based movement to accomplish this necessary amendment.

**This constitutional amendment would help DEMOCRACY**

Glen said we began this TV interview by saying that adding the **“We the People”** amendment is necessary so we can make progress on a great many other issues we care about.

We showed this image on the screen when this interview started, and we showed it again now, so we could discuss how important it is for accomplishing our goals for a variety of other issues:

**We the People Amendment is Essential for All Other Issues!**

* Corporations have hijacked the US Constitution and working with the Judiciary are able to use it against us
* Green New Deal, Medicare for All, democracy reforms, economic justice, environmental policies, peace, consumer protection, worker protections -- all require addressing corporate constitutional rights
* This is a Constitutional/Democracy crisis, not simply a money in politics crisis

Glen said all three of us strongly support the **“We the People”** amendment because it is necessary for restoring democracy after the damage caused by the Supreme Court and Congress and big businesses.

He added that **regardless of whatever issues we care about** – peace, a fair economy, human rights, a clean environment, a humane immigration system, mass media that serves the public, and so forth – **all of our efforts for progress are being held back by the problems we have been discussing here**.

**Therefore, we must pass the “We the People” amendment in order to make progress on all of our other issues.**

When we were preparing for this interview, Keyan had mentioned that this is important for **local** and **state-level** issues as well as national ones.

Now Keyan said all of the issues are directly interconnected. He mentioned the 14th Amendment’s equal protection and due process. Many people are often denied those rights, but corporations are rich enough to make sure they do get 14th Amendment protections.

Also, he said the Fifth Amendment protects people from the government “taking” anything without due process. The legal principle about “takings” was intended to protect ordinary people and compensate us when necessary, but corporations have grabbed onto that principle and made it pertain to them, so they demand huge compensation instead of facing justice when they are seriously negligent against us.

He added that people’s Fourth Amendment protection from unjust search and seizure often are violated when police stop us, but corporations routinely demand a warrant before any of their properties or files are inspected or searched.

Glen thanked Keyan for mentioning these examples of the disconnect between ordinary people and corporations. He said corporations demand – and are allowed to get – sweeping rights, but ordinary people’s rights very often are limited unjustly. Many judicial errors have perverted our economy and obstructed economic justice for real people.

Glen said we need a level playing field, and the American people really do want fairness, so the **“We the People”** amendment would help to create a level playing field for everyone. It would be good for all of the issues we care about, including the climate, economic justice, and so forth.

**This constitutional amendment would help the ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE:**

Glen said that many abuses have been allowed because the Supreme Court and Congress have repeatedly allowed big businesses to grab power by mistakenly giving them the constitutional rights and protections that our nation’s founders had intended only for human beings. Then those big businesses abuse our environment and climate and many other things in order to enrich themselves – and then they use their illegitimate legal defenses to exempt themselves from being held accountable. “What a screwy system we have allowed! We’ve got to straighten that stuff out!”

He invited Greg to address this concern. Greg said if the people watching this interview take only one thing away from it, this should be that the **“We the People”** amendment is not just about First Amendment free speech for corporations. The amendment addresses all of the other never-intended constitutional rights that corporations have been granted. Many of those have directly led to corporations plundering Mother Earth.

Greg said these distortions include First Amendment free speech rights, spending big money in elections, political corruptions, and so forth, allowing fossil fuel corporations and others to hurt the environment and climate.

Greg reinforced the points that Keyan had made about Fourth Amendment rights, search and seizure protections, and so forth, that interfere with governmental agencies inspecting them to discover their harmful actions.

Also, corporations should not have been given Fifth Amendment rights about “takings.” The environmental and climate movements are trying hard to keep fossil fuels in the ground instead of burning them, but fossil fuel corporations are demanding excessive payments to prevent governments from “taking” their assets after they’ve been given permits for drilling, fracking, etc. The so-called “loss of profits” could amount to tens of trillions of dollars, he said. He said all of these reasons explain why we must prevent corporations from using all of the constitutional rights that have been unjustly given to them.

Glen said that for many years he has been paying attention to the global “free trade” agreements, which are grossly unfair to workers and the environment, and were designed to give even more powers to giant multinational business corporations.

He said a provision that has been written into some of those “free trade” agreements says that if any government (national or local) wants to protect workers’ rights or the environment, that would reduce corporate profits, so the giant corporations demand to be compensated for their loss of profits. The “free trade” agreements also have created global tribunals whose judges are appointed by big corporations decide those cases. They are allowed to severely penalize any government many millions – or even billions – of dollars if governmental efforts to protect workers or the environment are alleged to be hurting corporate profits. He said, “This is crazy! This is way out of control!”

Greg said they got that model from their misunderstanding of the U.S. Constitution. Glen agreed that this is an abuse of the “takings” part of the Fifth Amendment, and it has spread worldwide through these “free trade” scams.

**This constitutional amendment would help RACIAL JUSTICE + OTHER SOCIAL JUSTICE:**

Glen said the problems we have been discussing also have hurt various aspects of social justice, including the rights of people of color. He invited Keyan to help us understand how excessive and illegitimate powers given to business corporations have hurt racial justice in particular and all other human rights and social justice realities overall.

Keyan said all of these issues, including racial justice and economic justice are intertwined. He said people of color and communities of color are on the front lines of struggle against environmental, climate, and economic problems caused by corporate power. Segregation, redlining, gentrification, are serious realities. Major sources of pollution are often located near areas where people of color live. He said we really need to center actual human beings back into the Constitution. This amendment is intended to do this. He said our nation must recognize that human rights are fundamental and paramount before any consideration of property rights or business.

Keyan said beyond the United States government’s timidity, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights [[**https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights**](https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights)**]** is an expression of the world community’s significantly broader and more profound commitment to human rights than the U.S. government recognizes.

Also, he added, the U.S. allows racial injustice to occur in a variety of ways, including over-policing and other policies that serve corporations and hurt people, especially people of color. The culture of law enforcement agencies has become militarized. It promotes excessively scrutinizing people of color, promotes violence and punishment and incarceration rather than rehabilitation or safety. Mass shootings continue to occur, and so do police shootings of innocent people – especially people of color who are not armed, and people experiencing mental health crises. [We did not have time to point out that guns are manufactured by big businesses, which want more guns to be sold and used.]

Glen added that some big business corporations own prisons, so they are profiting from the excessive policing and excessive incarceration that hurt people, especially poor people and people of color. Indeed, our entire criminal justice system is massively biased against poor people, people of color, and people with mental disabilities. He said, “The corporate ownership of these privately owned, profit-making prisons are scamming the taxpayers and disproportionately hurting the inmates by skimping on health care and skimping on food in order to enhance their own profits. It’s really out of control.”

**This constitutional amendment would PROMOTE PEACE by weakening the Military-Industrial Complex:**

Glen said he has been an active volunteer in the peace movement since the 1960s. He said the problems we have been discussing have also been promoting militarism and perverting our government and our economy. One of the powerful realities is that nearly every member Congress promotes more weapons systems that we really don’t need. He said a recent example is that Congress decided to fund a new weapons system for the Navy that the Navy does not want! Congress members do such stupid, corrupt things because their campaigns are funded by giant corporations, including those that make military weapons. This corruption is out of control! He said the military weapons manufacturers made many billions of dollars from the stupid wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Likewise Congress is extravagantly funding more nuclear weapons. The military weapons makers hold hostage local communities all across the nations by saying they are “creating jobs.” Actually, he said, economists have been PROVING since the 1950s that spending a chunk of money on civilian projects that help people (housing, education, health care, etc.) create MORE jobs and BETTER jobs than if that money were spent on the military – either weapons or military bases.

Big business has so much money – and hence so much political power – that it keeps overwhelming the government and preventing the government from making thoughtful decisions of how to spend money and deal with “national defense” issues. It’s all about corporate money and power. “It’s all a big power grab by the Military-Industrial Complex.”

He invited Greg to share his thoughts. Greg agreed with Glen and said the military contractors – the Military-Industrial Complex – have used their campaign contributions (which he said should be more accurately called “investments”) to get what they want. He said it is extremely hard to hold these companies accountable or to use transparency to see what they really are doing. When people try to do that, the companies claim they have Fourth Amendment protections from “search and seizure” to prevent us from knowing the truth, and they also claim a First Amendment right NOT to speak – to keep secrets from us in order to prevent accountability.

Deeper than that, he said they invoke the claim of “national security” and they make us fear for our safety if they had to disclose the truth, because that might include “intelligence” that they say other nations should not be able to see or hear. They want us to fear other nations and fear “the other” so we will simply let the Military-Industrial Complex do whatever they want. They blend into their position the mantras of nationalism and patriotism and also some racism. They do not want us to ask questions that might embarrass them or expose the baloney because they claim they are patriotically protecting the nation state.

**This constitutional amendment would REDUCE CYNICISM and SUPPORT the PUBLIC:**

Glen said the problems are huge and systemic. He said in recent years, public opinion polls have been showing that more and more Americans are saying our country is “on the wrong track.” A huge and increasing amount of cynicism has infected our society and hurt our democracy. Some of this has been caused by the problems we have been discussing during this TV interview.

He said he believes that adding the **“We the People”** amendment to the U.S. Constitution would reduce cynicism and help our society in many, many ways. Benefits would include helping people feel better about living in this country, helping people feel more included and more egalitarian. He said this amendment would help to level the playing field and allow people to be more productive citizens and enjoy better conversations about issues instead of being overwhelmed by this superstructure of abuses and constraints that have been imposed upon us.

He repeated that we need to change the system, and this amendment is a very important part of that.

**Let’s build a broad-based grassroots movement to convince Congress to do this!**

Glen said Congress is notoriously slow to take strong actions to solve important problems. Congress keeps failing to pass laws to reduce gun violence, refuses to take strong actions for the climate, and fails to prevent big money from corrupting elections – even though big majorities of the public want them to do these things – because Congress has been corrupted by big money.

Congress will not pass the **“We the People”** amendment unless we ourselves organize a broad-based, strategically savvy, and vigorous grassroots movement to push Congress to take this necessary action.

He invited Greg to share his insights and recommendations for how to proceed. Greg agreed with Glen and said there is a massive disconnect between what a big majority of the public wants versus what Congress keeps failing to do. He said this disconnect has resulted in massive cynicism, alienation and anger among the public, so the public feels powerless.

Greg said the remedy is for people to come together to build a movement to change the status quo. He said that is what Move to Amend is trying to accomplish. He urged people to visit their website, [**https://MoveToAmend.org**](https://MoveToAmend.org), and join with about half a million people who have signed the petition at [**https://MoveToAmend.org**](https://MoveToAmend.org)**/petition**

He said they are lobbying to pass the legislation that Representative Pramila Jayapal (Democrat from Seattle) introduced. In the 2023 Congress the new bill number is HJR 54. By mid-May 2023, it had 45 co-sponsors. Glen said that before she was elected to Congress, Pramila Jayapal was a very skilled grassroots organizer for an immigrants’ rights organization, and she has carried that sense of progressive empowerment into her role in Congress. She enjoys tremendous support from Seattle’s voters.

Greg said the very most important point to make here is that significant positive changes in the U.S. have never, never, never been initiated from the top down. The power to solve big problems must come from the bottom up – from grassroots movements – from people who say they do not accept what has been told to them as inevitable, as irreversible, as givens. He said we need to take personal ownership of the responsibility to change the big systemic problems. He said organizing vigorous grassroots movements has been the only way we have solved big problems dozens of times in American history. We need to continue that.

Glen said several times a year he offers free online workshops to strengthen people’s insight, skills and resources for organizing grassroots movements to solve whatever kinds of problems people want to work on. He said when he offers these again he’ll post the information to his blog, [**https://parallaxperspectives.org**](https://parallaxperspectives.org)

Again, see page 7 above for the image we showed on the screen, saying that passing the **“We the People”** amendment is **essential** for **all** other issues we care about.

Glen invited Keyan to add any other insights about the potential for a broad-based grassroots campaign to “connects the dots” across issues, challenge the status quo, and effectively promote the “We the People” amendment.

Keyan agreed and said – beyond educating people – we need to show people the power that they really do have. Instead of thinking we need to empower people, people already have power, so people need to step up and use their power effectively.

Also, he said people need to know that they are not alone in their struggles. The issues are not “siloed,” but are interconnected. Working in the movement for environmental justice, working to end the school-to-prison pipeline, stopping the militarization of police and the over-policing of neighborhoods – for all of these struggles and others, some giant corporations or a corporate-dependent non-profit organizations are standing in the way of using the legislative process to solve the problems.

He said the **“We the People”** amendment is a critical first step toward leveling the playing field, so we can disallow those artificial entities from controlling and manipulating the public discourse. Then we can have an honest and person-to-person dialogue about what a person-centered democracy would really look like.

**We did not have time to mention these ideas that our guests had said before we started taping this:**

* Cultural institutions create interlocking webs of oppression that reinforce the power of the status quo for the benefit of the few at the expense of many.
* People need to understand that these various issues are not siloed. They interact and are grounded in the U.S.’s origins and the dominant culture then and now. The U.S. was founded by rich white property owners. That culture has permeated ever since throughout all sectors of our society. This leads to homelessness, excessive imprisonment, etc., that do not solve problems, but only perpetuates the unjust systems.
* A useful strategy is for people to tell their stories so other people can understand the underlying the problems that they are experiencing and seek good solutions.
* Another useful strategy is to keep connecting to current events and what’s on people’s minds.
* Legislators get their information from corporate-owned media, lobbyists, so “We the People” must provide information they are not hearing otherwise.
* In order to build a broad, diverse movement, we need to go beyond a campaign focused on politics and build an anti-oppression movement that deals with race, class, gender, etc. Dominant entities treat people as “throw-away” people in order to maintain dominant status for themselves. Our **“We the People”** campaign needs to center the oppressed and marginalized people and their interests and issues.
* We need to pay attention to local and state-level issues as well as the national ones.
* The **“We the People”** amendment is one of many solutions that we need.
* Move to Amend conducts orientations and preparations before sending people to lobby legislators, etc. People will be better informed about these issues than their legislators are.
* Our outreach should draw upon the wisdom and strategies related to how we “frame” and “re-frame” issues. Glen has written about this. See a link near the end of the document you are reading now.

**The Move To Amend organization’s basic information, including “Mission” and “Goals”:**

Next we discussed the organization working to add the “**We the People”** amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

We showed on the screen the “Mission” of “Move To Amend,” so we could discuss more about the organization:

**Mission**

**Move to Amend is a coalition of hundreds of organizations and hundreds of thousands   
of individuals committed to social and economic justice, ending corporate rule, and building   
a vibrant democracy that is genuinely accountable to the people, not corporate interests.**

Glen invited Greg to say more about the “Mission” of Move to Amend. Greg said more than 700 organizations have endorsed what Move to Amend is working to accomplish. Also, he said, more than 700 local communities have either passed ballot initiatives or municipal resolutions supporting this goal. A few years ago Wisconsin passed a citizens’ initiative supporting it.

He said this movement is growing. People understand that our government – rather than being “broken” is actually “fixed” as in “rigged.” He said the only way to unrig it is for people to come together and change it.

Glen said he is one of the half million people who have signed the petition.

Next we showed the “Goals” of “Move To Amend,” so we could discuss the organization’s clearly focused work:

**Goals**

Pass the **We the People Amendment (HJR 54)** to make clear that **artificial entities do not have Constitutional rights and that money is not constitutionally protected “free speech.“**

Provoke discussion and organizing about how **to make real the promise of democracy** through Constitutional renewal.

Originally, this image had shown the bill number from the previous Congress. Soon after we produced this TV interview, the bill was reintroduced in the 2023 Congress and got a new bill number, **HJR 54**, so Glen updated the box above. When we publicize this and reach out to Congress let’s use the new bill number. Greg said minor changes occurred, so it was resubmitted and got a new bill number. By mid-May 2023, it had 45 co-sponsors.

Greg said we are dealing with massive problems, so the solution must be massive in order to solve them. That’s why we need this constitutional amendment.

**More information about the organization Move to Amend:**

Glen said the problems in our democracy – and the bigger problems throughout our society – are very deep-seated. Many people help with temporary fixes such as electing better candidates and passing laws. We **ALSO** need **VERY BOLD** changes that will **SOLVE THE PROBLEMS** at the **SYSTEMS** level. If we fix the **SYSTEM** we can solve many problems throughout every sector of society. He said that’s why he supports Move to Amend and the **“We the People”** amendment to the Constitution.

He said that for many years he has been supporting the efforts of our guests’ organization, Move To Amend:

* He has been reading the organization’s e-mails and other materials.
* He appreciates the website, [**www.MoveToAmend.org**](http://www.MoveToAmend.org)
* He is one of nearly half a million Americans who have signed MTA’s petition calling upon the U.S. House of Representatives to pass House Joint Resolution **54**, the new bill number for the **“We the People”** amendment.
* He has been donating financial support – and encourages other people to donate too.

He invited Greg to say more about Move to Amend.

Greg said people can learn more by visiting the website, [**https://MoveToAmend.org**](https://MoveToAmend.org), learn more about the petition at [**https://MoveToAmend.org**](https://MoveToAmend.org)**/petition** and sign the petition there or at [**https://MoveToAmend.org**](https://MoveToAmend.org)**/motion** Also, to ask a question, e-mail [**info@MoveToAmend.org**](mailto:info@MoveToAmend.org)

Greg said we have a right to decide what goes on at the national, state and local levels, so we must take our responsibility seriously to solve the problems and enjoy a fair and sustainable world.

He added that we should think of democracy as a verb instead of a noun, and that it is like a muscle, so if we don’t use it, it will wither and weaken.

He said public officials have messed things up, so We the People need to take responsibility to boldly solve the problems.

Glen agreed that “We the People” must take responsibility to do what is needed – just like the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution proclaimed. The solutions must be “bottom-up”!

**Sources of information:**

Glen encouraged people to visit the website of Move To Amend, which is [**https://MoveToAmend.org**](https://MoveToAmend.org)

His blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), includes information related to this month’s topic in the blog’s “Democracy” category and the “Judicial and Constitutional” category, in addition to the “TV Programs” category.

The document you are reading now thoroughly summarizes what we said during this interview. It’s on Glen’s blog along with the TV interview video. He invites you or anyone – anywhere – anytime – can watch this TV video and/or read this thorough summary. Visit [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org) . click the “TV Programs” category, and click the title of this TV episode: **“We the People vs. Corporate Rule: It’s up to Us!”**

Two of Glen’s previous TV programs on my blog focused specifically on issues directly related to this topic:

* Glen’s March 2011 TV program urges us to **reject the “corporate personhood” doctrine**. Watch the video and/or read about the topic at this link: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/tv-real-democracy-not-corporate-personhood**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/tv-real-democracy-not-corporate-personhood)
* Glen’s June 2022 TV program explains how **“Big Money” corrupts our elections and our government**. This program proposes ways to strengthen democracy instead. Watch the video and/or read my thorough article about what we said on TV about the topic at this link: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/big-money-in-elections-corrupts-our-government**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/big-money-in-elections-corrupts-our-government)

Our outreach should draw upon the wisdom and strategies related to how we “frame” and “re-frame” issues. Glen has written about this on his blog. See this: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/these-savvy-practical-insights-can-reach-and-convince-the-public-about-our-issues**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/these-savvy-practical-insights-can-reach-and-convince-the-public-about-our-issues)

Also, some other organizations and information sources are working to remove big money from politics and reform electoral processes in other ways. These good organizations and information sources include:

[**www.wamend.org**](http://www.wamend.org)

[**www.opensecrets.org**](http://www.opensecrets.org)

[**www.movetoamend.org**](http://www.movetoamend.org)

**www.inequality.org**

[**www.freespeechforpeople.org**](http://www.freespeechforpeople.org)

[**www.fixdemocracyfirst.org**](http://www.fixdemocracyfirst.org)

[**www.fairvote.org**](http://www.fairvote.org)

[**www.demandprogress.org**](http://www.demandprogress.org)

[**www.citizen.org**](http://www.citizen.org)

[**www.americanpromise.net**](http://www.americanpromise.net)

[**www.aclu.org**](http://www.aclu.org)

**Glen’s closing encouragement:**

Glen thanked Greg Coleridge and Keyon Bliss for sharing their knowledge, wisdom, insights, and encouragement for strengthening democracy, our Constitution, economic justice, and human rights and the other issues we care about.

He also thanked the people who have been watching this TV interview.

The people watching my TV program series care about a wide variety of issues. I want everyone to understand that – regardless of which issues you care about the most – passing the constitutional amendment we are discussing during this hour will help you make a lot more progress. All of the issues are inter-connected. All of the goals we have for these issues are obstructed by the bogus assumption of “corporate personhood, the illegitimate powers of big business corporations, and the bogus assumption that Big Money funding elections is an expression of “free speech.”

I encourage people to connect with Move To Amend and help them pass the **“We the People”** amendment to the U.S. Constitution so we can strengthen democracy and fairness throughout every part of our nation.

I hope you will tell your friends about this TV program and encourage them to watch it on cable TV during May 2023 in Thurston County, Washington. It airs on Thurston Community Media Channel 22 three times a week for the full month: every Monday at 1:30 pm, every Wednesday at 5:00 pm, and every Thursday at 9:00 pm.

Also, your friends can watch this TV video and read what we said by visiting my blog from anywhere at any time, as I said a moment ago. My blog is [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). Parallax has ONE R and TWO L’s. Pa-Ra-LL-AX Perspectives.org.

Visit my blog, click the link for **“TV Programs,”** and click the link for this episode, titled, **“We the People vs. Corporate Rule: It’s up to Us!”**

You can get information about a wide variety of issues related to peace, social justice and nonviolence through my blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)or by phoning me at   
(360) 491-9093 or e-mailing me at [**glen@parallaxperspectives.org**](mailto:glen@parallaxperspectives.org)

I end each TV program with this invitation to help make progress:

**We're all one human family, and we all share one planet.**

**We can create a better world, but we all have to work at it.**

**The world needs whatever you can do to help!**