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“One thing our founding fathers could not foresee...was a nation governed by professional politicians who had a vested interest in getting reelected. They probably envisioned a fellow serving a couple of hitches and then looking...forward to getting back to the farm.”

—*Ronald Reagan (1973)*

# CITIZENS FOR TERM LIMITS

# CITIZENS FOR TERM LIMITS

"OUR LIVES, OUR FORTUNES AND OUR SACRED HONOR"

*www.termlimits.com*

*Rense Johnson, chairman*

*Second Chronicles 7:14*

Hi!

Citizens for Term Limits started out as Louisiana Citizens for Term Limits in Baton Rouge over a dozen years ago when we helped the Louisiana Legislature amend that state's constitution to limit its own legislative terms.

What follows in this portfolio is of vital interest to those of us who are concerned for the future of our country, today and in the years to come.

We have put together a plan of action designed to overcome the perils that await our nation.

The plan won't be easy, but it is very doable. And it can get us through the shadow of our nation's enemies, foreign and domestic, and into the bright promise of a better future for ourselves and those who come after us, born and yet unborn.

Together we can make it happen.

Best to all,

*Rense Johnson, Chairman  
Citizens for Term Limits  
For a fresh Congress*

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# JOHN MCCAIN, REPUBLICANS, & MANDATED TERM LIMITS

By Rense Johnson, Chairman  
*Citizen for Term Limits*

The Republican leadership finds themselves in deep trouble as the 2008 election approaches.

They brought it upon themselves **when they reneged on the Contract with America, the centerpiece of which was term limitation, and have suffered at the ballot box every election since.**

This powerful vision for America is now supported by 60-80% of the people — **landslide numbers** if the issue is used.

**The answer is simple: Republicans live up to your collective word.**

The extreme power of the term limitation issue — 60%-80% support across the country and 82% in Oklahoma — **can overturn commonplace thinking.** The tremendous popularity of term limitation offers Republicans an historic opportunity to upset the party balance in Congress and in the country. **and put Republicans in charge of Congress for years to come.**

Today term limitation is a highly-charged emotional issue, representing a disconnect between the man on the street and his government. But — **the issue that has cost the party dearly since 1994 can be its deliverance now. This year.**

What **WILL** go away if this issue is ignored...**is whatever life remains in the Republican party.**

**Would John McCain have the courage to go directly to the American People with this? No one doubts McCain's courage if he can be made**

to see the huge benefits accruing to Americans and the Republican party from this dramatic move, and the national excitement from voters of Democratic as well as Republican stripe. But — were the GOP to adopt term limitation as a national platform, party-wide, presidential and congressional, to **put congressional term limits in the Constitution**, voters would flock to the party in droves, creating that landslide for all Republicans.

Term limitation has assumed the dimensions of a hugely **powerful campaign weapon.** It is **poison to Democrats**, which means **only Re-**

**publicans** can use it. It is the only issue of its kind, and it still belongs exclusively to the GOP.

**The required two-thirds vote for a constitutional amendment doesn't have to be achieved in '08, only evidence of the pursuit of it.**

The results will be stunning. Term-limitation has a deep-rooted emotional appeal

which captures America's fervor and exuberance like no other issue. This began in the mid-'90s with Republican reneging on the Contract with America.

Rank and file Republicans will love it. The resulting landslide will catch all the pundits and all the insiders completely by surprise. Reid and Pelosi will only be able to stand and watch. Hillary and Obama too.

**Permitting destruction of the Republican Party and abandoning the country to the big-spending liberal socialist Democrats is not an option.**

**“Voters would flock to the party in droves, creating a landslide for all Republicans.”**

# BANKRUPT—AND LOSING INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE

By Rense Johnson, Chairman  
Citizen for Term Limits  
(formerly Louisiana Citizens for Term Limits)

In one of Robert Novak's closed, not-for-attribution meetings recently, I heard a highly-placed member of government state that manufacturing represents 24% of the U. S. economy, while the service sector amounts to 60%. There seemed to be no other eyebrows raised, but I was flabbergasted. How has the United States gotten in such condition? **Sixty percent service sector? Not only are we broke, (please see below) we are no longer a world class power. Our extinction as a country to be reckoned with is only a matter of time, unless something is done about it and soon.**

Boston University's Dr. Laurence Kotlikoff recently wrote an article asking the question, Is the United States Bankrupt? — which he then answers in the affirmative.

Our bankruptcy has been a long time developing. Today's economic reality has a political genesis which has ripened over the decades, as year after year, **self-centered career politicians have dominated and bankrupted our nation.**

A succession of profligate, irresponsible Congresses and their careerist members has appropriated every dollar of the debt that Dr. Kotlikoff writes about.

Two points which bear this out:

1. According to an article that appeared in *Investor's Business Daily* in February 1993, studies for the House Joint Economic Com-

mittee revealed that since 1947, every time the government has raised an incremental new dollar in taxes, it has managed to spend \$1.50. Think of it! Since right after World War II, it's been a dollar in, a dollar and a half out . . . A billion in, a billion and a half out . . . A trillion in . . . well, you get the idea. **For sixty years.**

2. According to Stephen Moore of Human Events, [former] Treasury Secretary John Snow recently announced that the total unfunded liabilities of the United States govern-

ment add up to eighty trillion dollars. "Ouch!" Moore wrote. "That's a debt load equivalent to about six times our current GDP. It is almost twice as much as the value of all goods and services produced everywhere in the world last year. And it is more money than has been earned by every American cumulatively since the Mayflower landed here [400] years ago." **[And a terrifying legacy for our children!]**

The war on terror makes the bankruptcy even more dire.

**“Congressional term limitation is an imperative first step toward the only way to bring about monetary reform.”**

A symptom of our country's bankruptcy is its out-of-control declining dollar value. We are reminded of this as we watch price inflation manifest itself in everything we buy. See the dollar value chart at [www.termlimits.com](http://www.termlimits.com).

Dr. Leo Richard, deep thinker and market analyst extraordinaire is Vice Chairman and a co-founder of Citizens for Term Limits. He believes that congressional term limitation is **an imperative first step** toward the only way to bring about monetary reform, i.e., a return to the

(continued on the next page...)

# BANKRUPT—AND LOSING INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE

Gold Standard, replacing our present fiat dollar.

As Federal Reserve Chairman Bernanke drops his “helicopter money” into the system he is further cheapening the already cheap fiat dollar.

Because it is imperative to identify root causes for poisonous facts, we must affirm that limitation of congressional terms is essential for national survival.

## **Citizens for Term Limits**

Citizens for Term Limits had its beginnings when a group of amateurs, with unexpected help from unexpected sources, persuaded the Louisiana Legislature to amend that state’s constitution to limit their own terms. (The LORD was sitting on our shoulder.) Louisiana is likely still the only state to have limited legislators’ terms by constitutional amendment instead of the ballot initiative.

## **Length of the limits?**

It is obvious that career politicians must be replaced. We believe six years in the House of Representatives (three two-year terms) and six years in the Senate (one six-year term) is proper for the nation. The longer these people stay there, the more time they have to forget who sent them, and who their bosses are — the people.

Most of these careerists are also Earmark Addicts. They brag so loudly about the pork they bring back to the District or State that they would have us overlook the logrolling that is necessary before that pork can be brought home. That is, in order to get theirs, they have to vote for everyone else’s. Result: escalation of our debt. Read: Bankruptcy.

On Fox News recently commentator and *Weekly Standard* Editor Fred Barnes said “If [Republicans] came out against all earmarks it would help [their political fortunes] more than anything else.” Barnes also supports term limitation.

A Congress populated with term limited public servants who go to Washington to serve—serve their neighbors and their country—would likely be able to conduct the nation’s business in 25 percent of the time, with 25 percent of the committees and subcommittees, and perhaps five percent as many ego-driven television virtuosos as we have now.

Sending careerists home. Six years and six years. Restoration of America as primarily a manufacturing nation. Total elimination of pork.

What blessings those would be.

What a great start!

## *What Reelection Costs*

**In the 2006 cycle, a House campaign spent an average of \$1.3 million per seat, and each winning Senate reelection spent \$9.4 million per seat.**

source: [opensecrets.org](http://opensecrets.org)

# WHY TERM LIMITS?

A Constitutional amendment limiting congressional terms is vital to our nation's future.

Obtaining passage of that constitutional amendment is the waging of political war. Like a shooting war, it will change history—in this instance a vast change for the better—for the nation and our children and their unborn descendants.

We face the third millennium with a bankrupt country and an evaporating fiat dollar—the result of years of profligate congressional spending—the buying of our votes with our children's money. We cannot survive with the gang of self-seeking big spenders we have in office now. The Congress we have is dysfunctional.

Present occupants of the luxurious seats in Congress become more insulated and isolated from reality with each passing year of their perceived life tenancy.

It is time to remind Members of Congress that we citizens put them there to serve the country, and not themselves. It is time to remind them that the government exists to serve the people, and not the politicians. We can ill afford a Model T Congress in a jet age.

It has been decades since members actually read what we pay them to vote on, leaving us at the whim of staffers who interpret for them. Staffers are now often the targets of big-time lobbyists.

What is desperately needed is the brand of public servants our founders, authors of the Constitution envisioned—the kind of statesmen who go to Congress to serve. These were to be citizen public servants who would go to Washington to serve their neighbors and their country for a limited time only. They would temporarily leave their citizen pursuits to serve briefly, bringing their everyday heartland common sense with them, then to return home to live among those neighbors after having completed their citizen responsibilities—to live under the laws they have just passed. Why should that sound so bizarre today?

In a country where Presidents can stay only eight years, these hangers on want lifetime tenure. We believe that six year limits in each chamber are adequate for the kind of citizen servants we seek, who see service in Washington as a duty, not a privilege.

Polls show that Americans want congressional term limitation by margins of three-to-one, even four-to-one. This is the issue that separates American citizens, who want to recapture their government, from a careerist-dominated Congress and its illegitimate bureaucratic offspring, the Beltway Elitists, who want to run our lives.

Congress, whose arrogant spending has bankrupted our nation and destroyed our currency, sets its own self-authored six-figure pay plus perquisites and pensions as if compensation were to be calculated based on its unbridled spending rather than on prudent governance. Indeed, our pandering Congress has created a counter-productive envy-based tax system which penalizes extra effort and success.

Congressional term limitation is the most important issue of our time, because the very survival of the country depends upon it. There is no alternative path to restore government to the people. There is no substitute for term limitation.

We now have a God-given chance, a once-only opportunity to change the direction in which our nation is headed. The American people are waiting to be led. If we citizens fail to seize this moment by providing the leadership to get term limits accomplished, then history will judge us harshly. Our children and their children will judge us harshly. We won't get a second chance. That leadership must come from us, the citizens. Now.

No nation can ever be greater than the combined character, integrity and virtue of its leaders. Where are character, integrity and virtue today?

The hour is late. Never in our history has the need been more desperate.

# DRAFT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

*The following article is proposed as first draft amendment to the Constitution of the United States.  
It is subject to validation by constitutional experts.*

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## ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT

**Section 1.** No person shall hold the office of United States Senator more than one term of six years. Any person who has held the office of United States Senator for more than half of a term shall then be ineligible to hold the office of United States Senator beyond that term.

**Section 2.** No person shall hold the office of United States Representative more than three terms of two years each. Any person who has held the office of United States Representative for more than half of any term measured in calendar days shall then be deemed to have held the office of United States Representative for that particular term.

**Section 3.** Resignations prior to attaining more than half a term by a Senator or Representative shall render such individual ineligible for further tenure in the Congress.

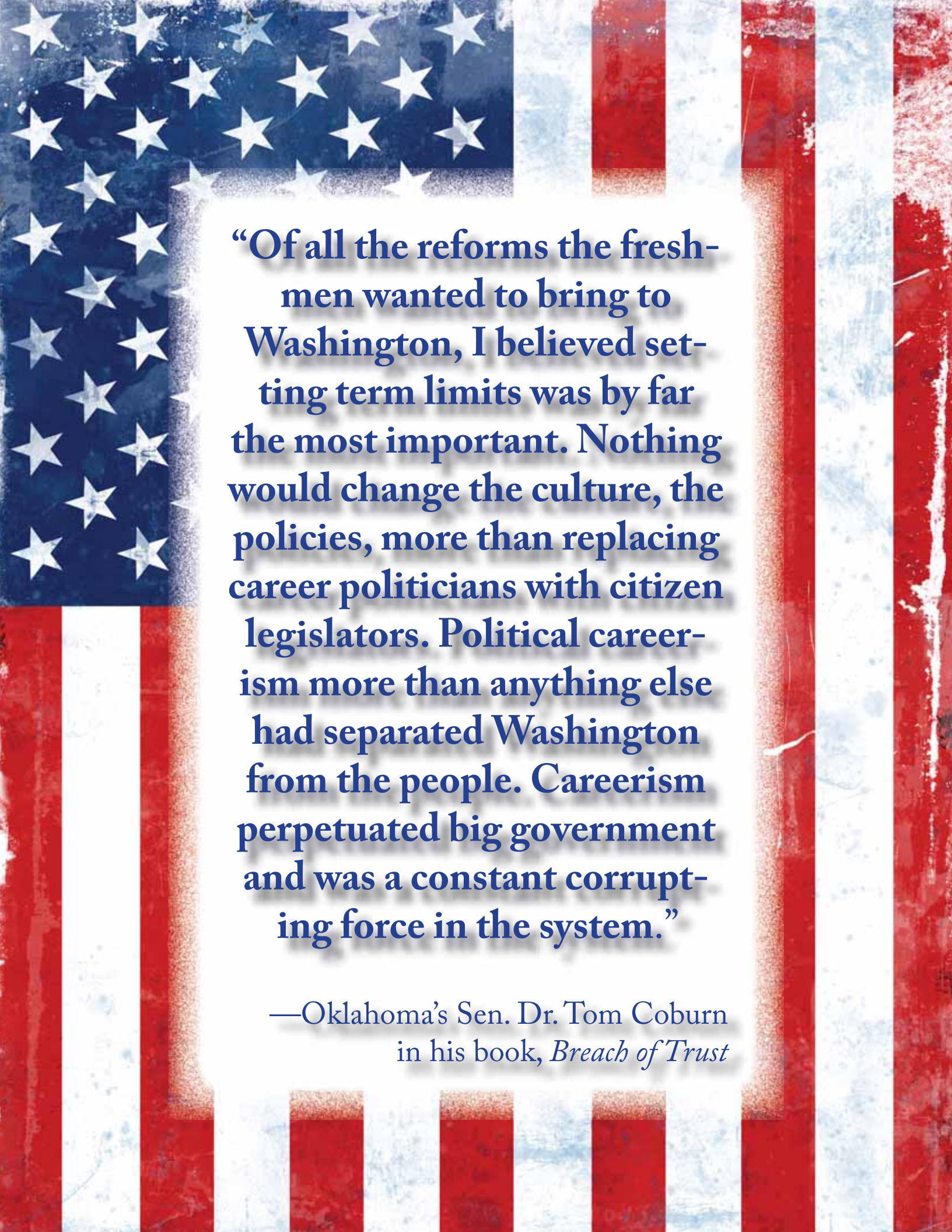
**Section 4.** No tenure accumulated prior to the date of ratification of this Article shall be included for purposes of this Article.

**Section 5.** United States Senators shall continue to be elected in accordance with the Seventeenth Constitutional Amendment, and each State shall retain its existing Classes in the biennial election of Senators, as set out in Article 1, Section 3 of the Constitution.

**Section 6.** This article shall be inoperative until it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in three-fourths of the several States, as provided in the Constitution.

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**“Of all the reforms the freshmen wanted to bring to Washington, I believed setting term limits was by far the most important. Nothing would change the culture, the policies, more than replacing career politicians with citizen legislators. Political careerism more than anything else had separated Washington from the people. Careerism perpetuated big government and was a constant corrupting force in the system.”**

—Oklahoma’s Sen. Dr. Tom Coburn  
in his book, *Breach of Trust*