

To: All Interested Parties
From: John McLaughlin & Brittany Davin
Re: National Survey Executive Summary – Voters Support Fewer Terms for Members of Congress
Date: August 5, 2019

Survey Summary:

The results of our recently completed national survey show that voters overwhelmingly believe in implementing term limits on members of Congress. Support for term limits is universal among voters and breaches political, geographic and demographic divides. Eight-in-ten voters, 79%, approve of placing term limits on members of Congress. Among those who support the implementation of term limits, these voters categorically favor fewer terms for members of Congress over several terms which leads to extended incumbency. While many elected officials insist that six terms of 2 years totaling 12 years is appropriate, American voters reject that notion. The overwhelming majority of voters, 85%, support four 2-year terms or less, with the plurality, 42%, in favor of two terms of 2 years.

Do you approve or disapprove of placing term limits on members of Congress?

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Hispanic	A.A.*	White
Approve	79%	84%	72%	81%	72%	63%	84%
Strongly	54%	62%	45%	55%	48%	40%	58%
Somewhat	25%	22%	27%	26%	24%	24%	25%
Disapprove	12%	9%	16%	10%	24%	20%	9%
Somewhat	8%	5%	11%	6%	18%	10%	5%
Strongly	4%	4%	4%	4%	5%	10%	3%
Don't Know	10%	8%	12%	9%	5%	17%	8%

*A.A. represents African American voters surveyed

How many 2-year terms should a member of Congress be allowed to serve?

(N=788)

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	Hispanic	A.A.*	White
1 Term	7%	7%	7%	7%	11%	15%	6%
2 Terms	42%	45%	39%	44%	46%	43%	42%
3 Terms	18%	18%	17%	19%	11%	14%	19%
4 Terms	18%	17%	21%	16%	17%	17%	18%
5 Terms	7%	6%	6%	9%	8%	9%	6%
6 Terms	0%	4%	3%	4%	3%	0%	4%
7 Terms	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
8 Terms	2%	1%	2%	0%	1%	1%	1%
10 Terms	0%	2%	3%	2%	1%	0%	2%
12 Terms	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%
15 Terms	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Don't Know	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Conclusions:

American voters overwhelmingly support placing term limits on members of Congress. The support for term limits is strong, broad and intense, and voters are unmistakably united in their desire for fewer terms for members of Congress.

Methodology:

This survey of 1,000 likely general election voters nationwide was conducted on July 23rd, through July 28th, 2019. All interviews were conducted online; survey invitations were distributed randomly within predetermined geographic units. These units were structured to correlate with actual voter turnout in a nationwide general election. This poll of 1,000 likely general election voters has an accuracy of +/- 3.1% at a 95% confidence interval. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Key Demographics:

Party:

	Total
Republican	33%
Democrat	36%
Independent/Other	31%

Gender:

	Total
Men	47%
Women	53%

Ideology:

	Total
Liberal	30%
Moderate	35%
Conservative	35%

Race:

	Total
White	70%
Asian/Asian American	4%
African American	12%
Hispanic	12%
Other	2%

Age:

	Total
18-29	18%
30-40	19%
41-55	23%
56-65	20%
Over 65	20%
Mean	48