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U.S. Term Limits urges State Representative Keith Perry to End Attack on Florida Term Limits

Palm Beach, FL--U.S. Term Limits, the nation' has sent a letter to Florida State Representative Keith Perry (R-Gainesville) urging the legislator to withdraw his bill which seeks to weaken the state's popular term limits law from eight years in each house to twelve. If passed, the bill would create a referendum for voters, which would need 60 percent of the vote for passage.

In the letter, USTL President Philip Blumel, a financial planner based in West Palm Beach, makes the case that an overwhelming majority of state residents do not want such a change.

"Since no one in Florida who isn't a public official has asked for twelve-year limits, citizens may see your vote as purely a self-serving attempt to lengthen your own time in office," Blumel writes. "There is no sense in expending time, effort, and resources on an issue the voters have already decided."

To illustrate his point on the popularity of eight-year term limits in Florida, Blumel points to both the initial 1992 referendum, which passed with 77 percent of the vote, and recent Quinnipiac [polling](#) which show that 79 percent of Floridians oppose moving from eight years to twelve.

In 2006, the legislature did refer a similar twelve-year bill to the ballot, which citizens vociferously opposed. The grassroots opposition, from groups including [author](#) and speaker Bob Burg's "Stop the Politicians," was so powerful that legislators decided to [withdraw](#) the measure from the ballot after referral.

Blumel writes that term limits "hold the legislature accountable, weaken special interests, and allow citizens the opportunity to serve in government."

The [data](#) backs up Blumel's point. Thanks to special interests, Florida incumbents can raise [nearly](#) six times as much as their challengers, which leads to re-election rates over 90 percent and a barrier to entry for everyday citizens.

USTL Letter: <http://termlimits.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/USTL-Letter-to-Rep-Keith-Perry.pdf>

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