

To: United States Term Limits
From: John McLaughlin
Re: West Virginia Statewide – Executive Summary – Voters Overwhelmingly Support Term Limits for Congress
Date: November 20th, 2018

Survey Summary:

The results of our statewide survey show that voters in West Virginia overwhelmingly believe in implementing term limits on members of Congress. Support for term limits is broad and strong across all political, geographic and demographic groups. An overwhelming 83% of voters approve of a Constitutional Amendment that will place term limits on members of Congress. The leading reasons among those who approve of term limits for Congress are: *to curb abuse of power (15%), get new people & fresh ideas (15%), generally support term limits (14%), lifetime job (13%), they don't represent the people (10%), and ending corruption (6%)*. Four in five voters (81%) would want their state representative and state senator to vote in favor of an amendment proposing convention to implement term limits on members of Congress.

Do you approve or disapprove of a Constitutional Amendment that will place term limits on members of Congress?

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	White	Non-White
Approve	83	89	77	88	84	75
Strongly	68	74	60	73	68	57
Somewhat	16	15	17	15	15	18
Disapprove	12	8	18	7	11	21
Somewhat	4	3	4	2	3	7
Strongly	8	5	14	5	8	14
D.K./Refused	5	4	6	6	5	4

If the state legislatures of two-thirds of the states vote to call an amendment proposing convention to recommend an amendment to place term limits on members of Congress, would you want your state senator and state representative to vote yes or no on this bill?

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	White	Non-White
Yes	81	87	73	87	81	75
No	13	8	18	8	12	18
Undecided	7	5	9	6	7	7

Three-quarters of West Virginia voters, 76%, are more likely to vote for a candidate for State Legislature who supports implementing term limits on Congress, nearly half, 48%, are much more likely. Two-thirds of the voters, 66%, say that they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who opposes implementing term limits on members of Congress, 40% much less likely. Approximately three out of four voters, 74%, are more likely to vote for their state legislator if this legislator voted to place term limits on Congress through an amendment proposing convention, even though these legislators do not currently have term limits on themselves.

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for State Legislature who supports implementing term limits for members of Congress?

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	White	Non-White
More Likely	76	82	66	87	78	61
Much More	48	56	42	49	49	43
Somewhat More	28	26	25	37	29	18
Less Likely	13	9	19	6	11	32
Somewhat Less	7	5	9	5	7	14
Much Less	6	4	9	1	4	18
No Difference	7	5	9	7	7	4
D.K./Refused	4	4	6	1	4	4

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for State Legislature who opposes implementing term limits for members of Congress?

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	White	Non-White
More Likely	22	25	23	16	22	21
Much More	11	12	12	8	10	18
Somewhat More	11	13	11	8	12	4
Less Likely	66	66	63	72	65	75
Somewhat Less	26	20	30	29	26	36
Much Less	40	46	32	43	39	39
No Difference	7	4	10	7	8	0
D.K./Refused	5	6	5	6	5	4

At present the West Virginia State Legislature does NOT have term limits on itself. However, if your state legislator voted to place term limits on Congress through an amendment proposing convention, in the next statewide election, would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for your state legislator?

	Total	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	White	Non-White
More Likely	74	78	70	75	74	75
Much More	47	52	42	48	47	39
Somewhat More	27	26	29	27	27	36
Less Likely	13	11	16	9	12	21
Somewhat Less	7	6	7	7	7	7
Much Less	7	5	9	2	6	14
No Difference	7	8	8	6	7	0
D.K./Refused	6	4	6	10	6	4

Conclusions:

West Virginia voters overwhelmingly support calling an amendment proposing convention to place term limits on members of Congress. The support for term limits is strong, broad and intense, to vote for state legislators who will vote “yes” on term limits, and against those who will vote “no” against term limits for members of Congress.

Methodology:

This poll of 400 likely general election voters in West Virginia was conducted on November 17th, 2018 through November 19th, 2018.

All interviews were conducted via telephone by professional interviewers. Interview selection was random within predetermined election units. 160 interviews (40%) were completed on cell-phones. These samples were then combined and structured to correlate with actual voter turnout in a general election.

This poll of 400 likely general election voters in West Virginia has an accuracy of +/- 4.9% at a 95% confidence interval.

Key Demographics:

Party:

	Total
Republican	34
Democrat	43
Independent/Other	21
Refused	2

Gender:

	Total
Men	47
Women	53

Ideology:

	Total
Liberal	21
Moderate	34
Conservative	41
Refused	5

Race:

	Total
White	91
Asian/Asian American	0
African American	5
Hispanic	2
Other	1
Refused	2

Age:

	Total
18-29	16
30-40	17
41-55	24
56-65	18
Over 65	24
Refused	1

Interview:

	Total
Cell	60
Landline	40