

VICTORY IN IDAHO

It's Unanimous!

Idaho Supreme Court Upholds Term Limits

In December, the Idaho Supreme Court unanimously upheld the term limits law originally passed by voter initiative in 1994 with 60 percent of the vote. The ruling means that dozens of Idaho officeholders, including half of the state's county commissioners, will be barred from having their names on the ballot next spring.

The effects of the Court's

decision — which overturned a lower court ruling from last year — are broad and immediate. In addition to the county commissioners, three fourths of Idaho county coroners, 27 assessors, about 24 treasurers and 29 county clerks are affected. State legislators will be barred from seeking reelection starting in 2004.

Local term limits support-

ers were elated to hear the news. "Christmas came early," said Don Morgan, chairman of the Citizens for Term Limits Idaho Campaign. "The political establishment has done everything they could do to reverse term limits. At the end of the day, common sense and law prevailed."

The Idaho Supreme Court justices unani-

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Idaho Supreme Court Chief Justice Linda Copple Trout
Ruled in favor of term limits.

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KEEPING HIS WORD

Self-Limiter Rep. Bob Schaffer Announces Plans to Leave Office

Displaying a level of integrity that is uncharacteristic for most politicians, Rep. Bob Schaffer (R-CO) recently announced his intention to leave office next year, honoring the self-limiting pledge he made five years ago.

In 1996, Schaffer signed a term limit pledge limiting himself to three terms in Congress. Now that part of his third term has passed, he has made it clear that he will

keep the pledge by opting not to run for a fourth term.

"He gave his word. He's living up to his term-limit pledge," press aide William Mutch said.

U.S. Term Limits congratulated Schaffer for his decision.

"Bob Schaffer did the right thing," Executive Director Stacie Rumenap commented. "We wish him well in the future."

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank You, America

events of September 11.

Along with everything I'm grateful for in my own life, I feel gratitude for our strength and resilience as a people.

I am thankful for the content of our character as well as for the content of our institutions, the freedom and democracy that inspires so many around the globe.

I am thankful that even under the most difficult circumstances, we're struggling to remain the same America we've always been.

It was reassuring, for example, to see the citizens of New York City exercise their democratic rights by going ahead with their mayoral election in November.

Sure, given the state of emergency in that town, there was some understandable debate about whether Mayor Rudy Giuliani ought to stay on past his legal limit. Even Mayor Giuliani, overwhelmed by a tsunami of gratitude for the steadiness of his leadership, waffled a bit on that point. But he came around in the end.

If term limits is based on anything, it is our belief that the public authority of any one single man can never be as critical to our political health as democratic institutions that bestowed upon him that authority to begin with.

Term limits are emblematic of what this country is, politically: i.e., a government of, by, for the people. Term limits seek to restore American democracy to the full glory of its original promise. The term limits movement says: yes, the idea that the people are capable of governing themselves is true. And the citizens ought to have every opportunity to engage in such governance. If and when the electoral process is in danger of becoming an empty shell, we

the people are justified in acting to reinvigorate them.

Term limits is about our confidence in democracy and also in our can-do ability to repair things, if they happen to become a little bit dilapidated. In other countries, it takes a coup d'etat to alter a political system.

I'm thankful that in just ten years, 19 states around the country have adopted term limits on their state legislatures.

I'm thankful that no matter how much flak term limits gets from career politicians and lobbyists and bureaucrats and staffers, the public continues to support term limits by overwhelming margins. Even today. Even in dire circumstances, with life itself at risk, and the exigencies of self-defense at the top of the policy agenda.

And I'm thankful for what term limits has accomplished. In just the last few years, 700 seats have been pried open to electoral competition around the country, as a direct result of term limits. Many of those hundreds of new legislators would never otherwise have considered directly participating in the governance of their communities. It was term limits that made that possible.

These men and women are doctors and businessmen, shopkeepers and educators, teachers and homemakers. They are learning what it means to be a citizen legislator. They are living the American dream, and they are helping to craft it.

Our country is far from perfect. But regardless of any shortcomings, the United States remains a great country, and a strong one. It would take an awful lot — far more than we received at the hands of the terrorists — to vanquish the spirit of this nation. I hope and trust that it can never be vanquished.

And so I am thankful.

<p>NO UNCERTAIN TERMS JANUARY 2002 • VOLUME 10 • NUMBER 1</p> <p>Editor: Eric D. Dixon — eric@termlimits.org</p> <p>Contributing Writers: Kurt A. Gardinier, David M. Brown</p> <p>A Publication of U.S. TERM LIMITS FOUNDATION 10 G St., NE, SUITE 410 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002 1-800-733-6440</p>	<p>USTLF BOARD OF DIRECTORS</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Peter Ackerman</td><td>Travis Anderson</td></tr> <tr><td>Steven Baer</td><td>Terence Considine</td></tr> <tr><td>Edward Crane</td><td>Mike Ford</td></tr> <tr><td>Neal Goldman</td><td>Jerry Hirsch</td></tr> <tr><td>M. Blair Hull</td><td>Sally Reed Impastato</td></tr> <tr><td>Paul Jacob</td><td>Kenneth Langone</td></tr> <tr><td>Ronald Lauder</td><td>Paul Raynault</td></tr> <tr><td>Howard Rich</td><td>Joseph Stilwell</td></tr> <tr><td>Donna Weaver</td><td>Bill Wilson</td></tr> </table>	Peter Ackerman	Travis Anderson	Steven Baer	Terence Considine	Edward Crane	Mike Ford	Neal Goldman	Jerry Hirsch	M. Blair Hull	Sally Reed Impastato	Paul Jacob	Kenneth Langone	Ronald Lauder	Paul Raynault	Howard Rich	Joseph Stilwell	Donna Weaver	Bill Wilson	<p><i>No Uncertain Terms</i> is published monthly at an annual subscription price of \$15. Third class postage paid, Washington, D.C.</p> <p>POSTMASTER: Send address changes to U.S. Term Limits.</p> <p><i>Term Limits On-Line!</i></p> <p>For the latest developments on term limits across America, visit our web site on the Internet at www.ustermimits.org</p>
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Ohioans Love Term Limits

A poll released in mid-December by the University of Cincinnati found that the majority of Ohio voters are pleased with their state's term limits.

Voters overwhelmingly approved term limits in 1992. The law, which limits state representatives to four consecutive two-year terms and state senators to two consecutive four-year terms, took effect in 2001, as the first group of politicians covered by the law were prevented for running for an additional term

According to a press release by the director of the Ohio Poll, "In the latest Ohio Poll, registered voters were asked if they would favor or oppose a constitutional amendment that would end term limits for state senators and representatives. . . . 62 percent oppose such an amendment." The poll also concluded that 32 percent supported the amendment and six percent didn't know.

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When asked if they would favor a constitutional amendment that would increase the number of consecutive years that a lawmaker could serve from eight to 12, 59 percent opposed the increase, 37 percent favored it, and five percent didn't know.

This information came at a particularly bad time for Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford), who was attempting to extend the number of consecutive years lawmakers could serve from eight to 12.

Before the University of Cincinnati's poll was conducted, Brett Buerck, Householder's chief of staff said, "The speaker wants to know: If politicians are for this, and business and labor leaders are for this, are the people for this?" The people have spoken and his question was clearly answered by this latest poll. ■

Federal Judge Strikes Down Unconstitutional Idaho Law

In 1997, the Idaho legislature passed a law that virtually shut down their citizens' initiative process. However, in late November U.S. District Judge Lynn Winmill ruled the law unconstitutional.

The 1997 law required anyone trying to qualify an initiative for the ballot to gather the signatures of six percent of the registered voters in each of its 22 counties. While at first glance these guidelines may not seem difficult — nor would they appear to be obviously

unconstitutional — the fact is that most of Idaho's counties are very sparsely populated, making it virtually impossible for petition gatherers to collect the signatures needed. In all, 60 percent of Idaho's population resides in just nine of the state's 44 counties.

Since the law passed, not a single initiative has qualified for the Idaho ballot. Judge Winmill's ruling will give the initiative process back to the citizens of Idaho. ■

LA City Council Shelves Term Limit Measure

The Los Angeles City Council ended its attempts Tuesday to overturn a mayoral veto of a ballot measure aimed at relaxing term limits on local politicians.

The council had tried 11 days ago to override Mayor James K. Hahn's veto but failed to gather the votes necessary.

On Tuesday, council members agreed to shelve the matter, which would have allowed elected officials to serve three terms of four years each, rather than the two terms allowed under current law. Hahn had opposed the council ballot proposal because he believed it was too soon to change the voter-approved term limit law adopted eight years ago. ■

Reprinted from the *Los Angeles Times*

New Group Targets Expanded Voter Initiative

Impact for Term Limits Could Be “Very, Very Positive”

Longtime U.S. Term Limits National Director Paul Jacob has formed a new organization, Citizens in Charge, to expand the citizen initiative process to additional states (beyond the 24 states that currently enjoy the process) and to protect initiative and referendum (I&R) where it now exists.

Citizens in Charge, a non-partisan, non-profit advocacy organization, opened its doors in October of this year. Already, CIC is aggressively supporting legislation in Minnesota that will allow the people to vote to create a citizen initiative process making Minnesota the 25th state in which voters have I&R.

Noting that 18 of the 19 states with term limits on their state legislatures have the benefit of the initiative process, Jacob explained, “The success of Citizens in Charge in bringing the initiative process to additional states will help every group whose goal is to enable the American people to control their own government. It’s certainly not hard to see how the impact of our success in expanding I&R could be very, very positive for the term limits movement.”

Jacob continues to work with U.S. Term Limits as a senior fellow and a member of the Board of Directors. He also will continue producing his radio commentary program, Common Sense, for the U.S. Term Limits Foundation. Common Sense is heard on 272 radio stations in 49 states and sent free via email to those who request

it.

USTL’s new executive director, Stacie Rumenap, applauded Jacob and the mission of Citizens in Charge, saying, “Paul helped us achieve a tremendous level of success. I’m glad he’s remaining involved in term limits and I’m very excited about his new organization. We’ll certainly benefit if people in more states can vote directly on limiting politicians’ terms.”

Reflecting on his role at U.S. Term Limits, Jacob remarked, “I’m very proud and honored to have worked with U.S. Term Limits and to continue to be involved in this critical movement for our country’s future.”

Jacob further noted, “We continue to expand and protect term limits at the state and local level as well as limits on committee chairmen in Congress. Not a single legislature has been able to overturn the voters’ term limits laws, though many

Not a single legislature has been able to overturn the voters’ term limits laws, though many have tried.

have tried.

“With Stacie Rumenap at the helm of USTL, politicians will continue to feel the power of the people when they attempt to monkey around with our term limits laws,” said Jacob. “And I’m confident Citizens in Charge will give term limits and other reform movements even more states where voters can make a difference through the initiative process.”

Citizens in Charge can be reached at (703) 580-7130 or 2617 Pheasant Hunt Road, Woodbridge, VA 22192. ■

“Victory in Idaho,” cont. from page 1

mously rejected arguments that the law violated voters’ rights to cast ballots for the candidates of their choice and denied veteran officeholders their constitutional suffrage rights.

“There is Idaho authority dating to the time of the constitutional convention indicating that the right of suf-

frage and the right to hold office are two separate acts,” Chief Justice Linda Copple Trout wrote for the court.

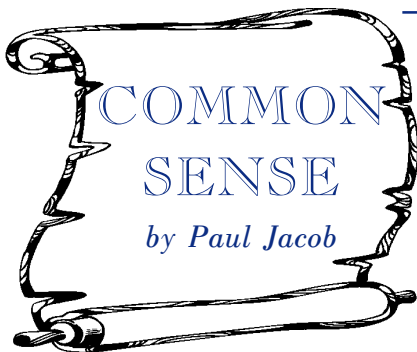
The high court agreed with arguments from attorneys for the state and Citizens for Term Limits that there is no fundamental right to be a candidate for office, and that the Idaho Constitution clearly allows lawmak-

ers or the people to restrict access to the ballot.

Justice Trout found that limiting terms of office did not infringe on the specific constitutional suffrage guarantees of a secret ballot, qualification of voters, disqualification of voters and officeholders, residency, recall and non-partisan selection of voters. ■



**THE WEEKLY RADIO COMMENTARY OF
THE U.S. TERM LIMITS FOUNDATION**



Let's Complain

If you would like to receive
COMMON SENSE
by email, write to us at
CommonSense@termlimits.org

Years ago there was a cartoon about Soviet society in which a reporter is interviewing a Russian citizen about life under Communism.

He asks the woman about Soviet transportation and she seems to have no problem with it. "Eh, I can't complain," she says, shrugging. Bread lines? "I can't complain," she says indifferently. Housing? "I can't complain," she says.

Finally, the exasperated interviewer asks, "Well, ma'am, is there anything about living in Russia you don't like?" And the woman shrieks "I CAN'T COMPLAIN!!"

Which is what freedom of speech is all about. Any totalitarian government will let you talk as much as you want, so long as you agree with them. Agreement is not the issue. It's the dissent, the complaints, that bother the people in power.

America is, of course, a country in which you and I can complain. I believe we will always enjoy that freedom.

Still, it is disturbing to hear the U.S. Attorney General, John Ashcroft, say that critics of the administration's anti-terrorism proposals are providing, "ammunition to America's enemies." He told Congress that those who "scare peace-loving people with phantoms of lost liberty . . . only aid terrorists." A pretty sweeping generalization.

Now, some of the criticisms may be valid, some not. And the motives of the critics are probably all over the map too. But geez, this is a country where we have the right to talk things over, openly, isn't it? ■

*Does your local radio station carry COMMON SENSE?
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Provided to radio stations five times a week.*

THEY SAID IT

Profile in Honesty

“Every once in a while, a public official acts with the kind of selflessness and integrity that gives public service a good name. Rep. Bob Schaffer, R-Colo., is honoring his term-limit pledge by retiring from Congress.”
—*Buffalo News* (Buffalo, NY)
December 15, 2001

Limits Remain Strong Nationwide

“Bills to repeal term limits failed this year in Arizona, Arkansas, Oregon and Utah. Moreover, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Maine, Michigan, Missouri and Oregon failed to pass bills intended to extend legislators’ terms beyond the limits set in the law.”
—*Chicago Tribune*
December 11, 2001

Phony Way to Extend Limits

“[Former Los Angeles mayor and current California gubernatorial candidate Richard] Riordan said term limits ‘have empowered women and minorities, particularly Latinos, more than anything else in the history of California’ by bringing in dozens of new legislators.”

He said Proposition 45 ‘is a phony way to extend term limits,’ because special interests, many of which are backing the measure, could finance the signature-gathering drives of selected legislators.”

—*Ventura County Star*
December 12, 2001

“While opponents of term limits warned that the change would put innocent lawmakers in the hands of mischievous lobbyists, that hasn't happened. Lobbyists have to work harder than ever, courting a new crop of lawmakers every two years. Longstanding personal relationships don't mean what they used to.”

**—*Oakland Tribune*
November 25, 2001**

A Lot of Bad Attitudes

“[Missouri House Speaker Jim Kreider forecasts one of the political storm fronts approaching the upcoming session of the Missouri Legislature in January.]

The impact of the 1992 term limits amendment to the state Constitution. Twelve of the 34 state senators and 75 of the 163 state representatives will be term-limited out of office after this session.

‘There’s going to be a lot of bad attitudes,’ Mr. Kreider said.”

—*St. Louis Post Dispatch*
December 9, 2001

Term Limits Taking Effect

“[Michigan Sen. Leon] Stille said that term limits have left the House with no member who has served more than five years, compared with senators who have served at least seven. Many of the House members wrestling with budget cuts this fall have never had to deal with a budget downturn in their legislative careers.”

—*Associated Press*
November 16, 2001

STOP THE POLITICIANS

California Term Limits Group Kicks Off 'No on 45' Campaign

A term limits advocacy group in California called Stop the Politicians launched their "No on 45" campaign on December 11 with the announcement that former mayor of Los Angeles Richard Riordan would act as the honorary campaign chairman.

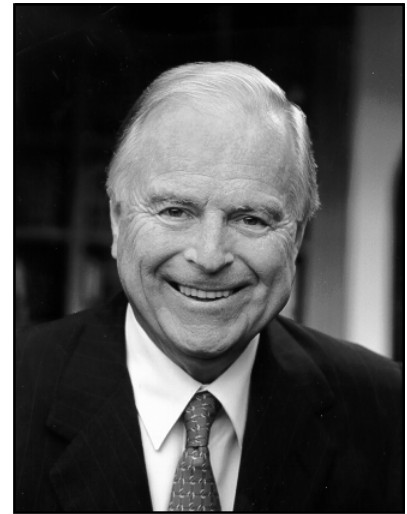
Joining Mayor Riordan at the press event in Sacramento were Lewis K. Uhler, president of the National Tax Limitation Committee and co-author of Prop. 130, the original 1990 California term limits initiative, Assemblyman Rod Pacheco, 64th Assembly District, and Ted Costa of the California Committee to Limit Terms, and President of the Peoples Advocate.

Uhler noted, "Richard Riordan has been a strong advo-

cate for term limits and the leader in bringing term limits to the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor's office. Mr. Riordan's vocal opposition to Prop. 45 underscores the deceptive nature of this politician- and special interest-inspired corruption of our term limit law."

Lew Uhler continued, "The politicians and the capitol insiders have been trying to 'kill' term limits ever since the voters approved them in 1990. They attacked term limits in the courts and failed. They have continually attempted to pass measures in the legislature to weaken or undermine term limits. But their frontal assaults faltered in the face of voter backlash. Now they are resorting to this desperate effort of deception to hold onto their power."

"This latest attempt to undermine term limits is particularly appalling because the proponents are attempting to fool the voters into thinking Prop. 45 would 'protect' term limits. In fact, Prop. 45 is the brainchild of politicians and special interest groups who have despised term limits from day one. The careerists and their money-toting special interest lobbyists crave for the return to their 'good old days' when they had a stranglehold on the legislature and had little regard for the interests of the California citizens." ■



Former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan
Serving as honorary chairman of the "No on 45: Stop the Politicians" campaign in California.



The "No on 45" term limits campaign kicks off in California. Ted Costa, president of the California Committee to Limit Terms, addresses the crowd. Also pictured (left to right): former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan, California Assemblyman Rod Pacheco, and Lewis K. Uhler, president of the National Tax Limitation Committee.

"Keeping His Word," cont. from page 1

To thank him even further, the U.S. Term Limits Foundation aired an ad on Denver television stations in December. The ad highlighted Schaffer's "great tradition" of following "true statesmen like Bill Armstrong and Hank Brown," former Colorado senators who each served only six years in office.

The ad continues, saying that as a result of Schaffer taking a term limits pledge, "he

never became part of the Washington system. He stood up for Colorado values instead of caving in to the special interests. And now, Schaffer's keeping his term limits commitment."

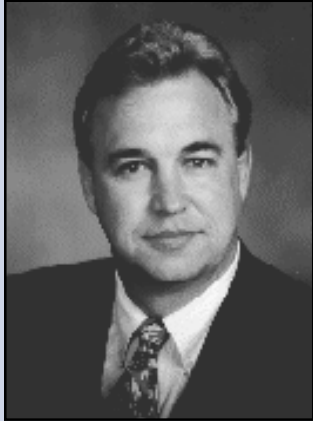
When asked of his future plans, Schaffer said he's "not too concerned" about what he'll do next.

"It's like I'm standing in front of a juke box with a roll of quarters," said Schaffer. ■



Rep. Bob Schaffer (R-CO)

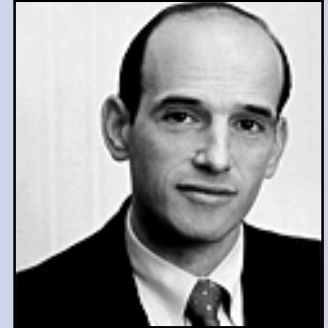
Six Candidates in 2002 Gubernatorial Races Pledge to Limit Their Terms in Office



Matt Salmon
www.salmonforgovernor.com



Mark Sanford
www.sanfordforgovernor.com



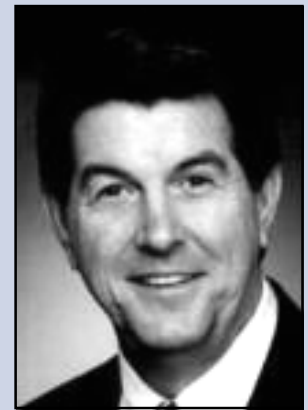
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