

## NO ON 45

### Special Interests Donate Millions to Kill California Term Limits

Special interests have donated millions of dollars to the politician-sponsored campaign to kill term limits in California, the Copley News Service reported recently. The anti-term limits campaign is sponsoring Proposition 45, a measure that will appear on California's March 5 ballot.

"Some powerful interests — unions, oil, alcohol, Indian tribes, tobacco, energy, insurance and trial lawyers — have contributed five- and six-figure dona-

tions to the campaign.

"A statewide teachers union contributed \$200,000. Prison guards kicked in \$100,000. Dozens of unions chipped in with donations of up to \$50,000. Mercury Insurance gave \$100,000, as did vintner E & J Gallo."

Also noted were a \$3 million contribution by the California Democratic Party, and several sizable donations from people with "close ties to Gov. Gray



[www.stopthepoliticians.org](http://www.stopthepoliticians.org)

**Stop Career Politicians  
Save Term Limits  
Vote NO on Proposition 45**

This billboard is a part of the "No On 45: Stop the Politicians" campaign to inform voters of its position on the upcoming ballot.

Davis," including a \$100,000 donation from "movie mogul David Geffen."

There are far too many special interest donors to list here, but their influence-grabbing cash joins the hun-

dreds of thousands of dollars already donated to the campaign by the campaigns of incumbents California legislators.

"It's being backed by huge amounts of cash from every special interest — all those

*continued on page 7*

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## STOP THE POLITICIANS

### California Term Limits Group Launches Anti-Prop. 45 Web Site

A group in California called "No On 45: Stop the Politicians" launched a web site in January to educate voters about the underhanded ballot measure the state's citizens will have a chance to vote on during the March 5 election.

The site features a wealth of news and commentary about Prop. 45, and lets you "follow the money trail" to see how much money California leg-



islators donated in their craven attempt to stay in office longer.

You can visit the web site at [www.StopThePoliticians.org](http://www.StopThePoliticians.org) — and be sure to tell your friends! ■



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Unilateral Anti-Democratic Disarmament

Do the politicians of Idaho respect the people of Idaho?

Not judging by the evidence of February 1, the day the Idaho House and the Idaho Senate

stomped the will of the people and totaled term limits.

Idaho's career politicians have been conniving to give term limits the slip — a preemptive pink slip — ever since voters passed the 1994 ballot initiative. Each electoral season the career politicians have tried some nattering new stratagem to kill term limits, including asking the voters again and again if they really, really mean it.

Every time the voters were asked, they answered, "Yeah, we really did."

Even a misleadingly described "advisory question" posted on the ballot in 1998 failed to fool the voters.

So it was on to the judicial arena. Last year the careerists' attempt to trash term limits in court seemed to bear fruit when a district court played along with the will of the careerists. But the Idaho Supreme Court put a stop to that, ruling that citizens in the state did have the right to pass term limits and that their democratic decision to do so stands.

Incredibly, though, the careerists construed the court's ruling as a cue not to graciously accede to the will of the people, but to act unilaterally against it. The citizens wouldn't cooperate with the careerist power grab . . . the high court wouldn't cooperate . . . the governor wouldn't cooperate . . . so the careerists chose to squash term limits themselves and on their own, no matter how self-serving and autocratic that might seem.

Explaining why he vetoed the term limits repeal, Governor Kempthorne stated the obvious (obvious to supporters of democracy, anyway): "I cannot say to the people who elected me to office that I respect their decision in my case but reject their collective judgment — on the very same ballot — when they affirmed their support for term limits."

Not an attitude shared by House Speaker Bruce Newcomb, leader of the drive to kill term limits; and no stranger to the democracy-dampening effects of incumbency, either. Newcomb has zero electoral competition to speak of in his district these days. Come election time, nobody bothers to compete with him. Representative David McCallister wants to know: "Do we really believe the people of this state don't know an incumbent has an advantage at the ballot box? These people are not fools."

There are two issues here. One is the merit of a particular measure: i.e., term limits. The other is the right of the people to pass measures at all.

Even many foes of term limits find themselves "puzzled" by the unilateral and repressive actions of Idaho's career politicians. "Frankly, we're against term limits," admits the *Idaho State Journal*. But, "When the Idaho House and Senate voted Friday to override Governor Dirk Kempthorne's veto and repeal term limits for state and local officials, the lawmakers not only defied the governor, they defied the will of the people."

The right of initiative empowers voters most especially when conflicts of interest prevent the voters' alleged representatives from passing legitimate and popular legislation. For obvious reasons, such conflicts of interest are particularly glaring when it comes to term limits. Which is why the unilateral anti-democratic disarmament perpetrated on February 1 seems so outrageously brazen — as if an accountant for Enron were cooking the books right on camera, for all to see.

What we are witnessing here is raw abuse of power. Plain and simple.

But it ain't over 'til it's over. The citizens of Idaho don't have to let the career politicians of Idaho get away with it. And I'm betting they won't. ■

## NO UNCERTAIN TERMS

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## **CALIFORNIA SCHEMING**

# Prop 45: Ballot Measure Will Weaken Term Limits Law

By Rod Pacheco, *The Bakersfield Californian*

February 3, 2002

Term limits. The very phrase sends shivers down the spines of most politicians.

Nearly a decade ago, the voters of this state overwhelmingly passed Proposition 140, effectively eliminating the lifeline of career politicians. It cut the weeds, as well as the flowers in our garden politic. However, in March Proposition 45 will attempt to weaken the term limit law by allowing politicians to extend their terms. Unfortunately, some politicians have forgotten why the term limits law was originally passed.

Indeed, the passage of term limits set in motion an overwhelming dynamic. It created an urgency in new legislators to solve the problems of California. Underlying this drive is the interminable fact that we all have an expiration date.

Some would suggest that the politics of self-interest have been greatly diminished as a result.

We have little time for laxity. The learning curve is steep, our tenures short, and the pressure for quick absorption of arcane and multifaceted issues has become paramount. But then, nothing sharpens the focus on matters at hand like a politician facing extinction.

Because of term limits there is a tremendous diversity of opinion. Citizens from all walks of life now have the opportunity to become representatives for their community. In the "old days" legislators stayed 20 to 30 years, thereby precluding new ideas. Today, the dynamism of our Legislature is matched only by the dynamism that is California, as well it should.

With increasingly diverse backgrounds come increasingly diverse perspectives, thus ensuring a better analysis by all. Instead of a quick one-dimensional review by cloistered politicians, today's legislature reflects contemporary California. Further diversity also brings greater representative democracy.

Ten years ago, term limit opponents criticized the loss of experienced politicians as if there were not bright, dedicated, honest citizens to replace them. A California Assembly member represents roughly 420,000 people. A senator represents twice that amount. Certainly there are many that could serve just as ably as their predecessor.

After 1996, when these limits firmly took hold, the state Legislature has accomplished much. In 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000 we cut taxes \$1 billion, \$1.4 billion, \$300 million and several billion dollars respectively. While we were at it we reduced class size, overhauled our welfare system, and in 1999 passed a budget on time for the first time in 14 years.

In contrast, the last non-term-limited legislators unanimously passed AB 1890 that deregulated the electricity business in California. This bill has not only caused enormous increases in electricity rates, but also devastated our economy and the state's fiscal footing.

Many of my colleagues, term limit progeny and all, tend to be extraordinarily dedicated and gifted. I will, of course, have some regret when they leave public service. But public service is just that. Representative

democracy's purpose is not to guarantee a lifetime job.

Throughout recorded history great leaders have recognized this often ignored truth. In an early threat to ancient Rome's existence a nobleman farmer, Cincinnatus, was named emperor with a term limit of six months. Upon his triumphal return from battle and before his term was up, Cincinnatus resigned his supreme position and returned to his fields.

At our own nation's birth, President George Washington was encouraged to run for a [third] term, and by some to become king. His promoters suitably rebuffed, the father of our country declined and returned home.

Their role as public servants was forever etched in the minds of their countrymen when they realized that leaving office is as important as seeking it. Upon that realization, and decision to act upon it, they became more than politicians, they became statesmen.

In 1996, I left my job as a prosecutor in the Riverside County District Attorney's Office upon my election as an assemblyman. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as my community's representative. But, I will return home shortly, confident in my own contributions and looking forward to the contributions to come by those who will follow. ■

Reprinted from *The Bakersfield Californian*

**Representative  
democracy's purpose  
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lifetime job. Through-  
out recorded history  
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recognized this often  
ignored truth.**

# Your Legislator's Post-Austerity Pay Raise

In these tough economic times, it makes sense for Michigan lawmakers to grab yet another pay hike . . .

Huh? Wha . . . ?

Believe it. Last year, legislators in Michigan doled out a 36 percent pay raise to themselves, just in time to beat the economic downturn. And now they've been awarded another 2.9 percent.

It's a coup of sorts. With this pay raise, "Michigan legislators slipped past their New York counterparts on January 1 to become the second-highest paid in the nation at \$79,650 a year," the *Detroit Free Press* duly notes. "Only members of the California Assembly make more at \$99,000."

Despite claims that with term limits taking effect, all political knowledge and experience are moving out the door, it seems many of Michigan's politicians still have enough know-how to "get what's coming to them."

Newly empowered foes of term limits like to complain that they are just too dumb to do their job, which these days requires some diligent budget-cutting in addition to the pay-hiking.

"We don't know how previous legislators addressed the same challenges because we weren't there," one such plaintiff, Representative Doug Hart, has opined.

As remedy, Hart wants a constitutional amendment to extend the House and Senate's six and eight-year limits to 12 years. (This is the same Doug Hart who worried after last year's 36 percent pay raise that voters might be more reluctant now to water down Michigan's term limits law.)

But those who really want to get things done are, of course, not so helpless. Representative Mickey Mortimer points that many members of the House Appropriations Committee have business experience and know how to belt-tighten.

"We were working in the '80s in Michigan when we were in the rust belt environment," says Mortimer, "and we had to have tight budgets and business constraints. If you have

to tighten your belt, you have to tighten your belt. You run it like you would a business."

Representative Marc Shulman was first elected to the Michigan House in 1998, and now heads up the Appropriations Committee, a job that became available when his predecessor, Terry Geiger, had to leave office because of term limits. While he knows that members may have been too optimistic about spending plans in the past, Shulman thinks they know how to reign it in.

"Everyone understands that this requires fiscal discipline," Shulman says.

The technical ability to cut programs is available to every intelligent lawmaker worthy of his seat, even if he is a new guy. Any responsible person can zero in on programs that are not quite as critical as local law enforcement or homeland defense, and let the political chips fall where they may.

Under term limits, such tough calls should be easier. That's because under term limits, entire political careers — the sort founded on a single monopolized seat of power — are not at risk.

But while term limits can prevent the Doug Harts of the world from clinging endlessly to a single perch of power, term limits alone can't dampen the acquisitiveness of any born career politician. Personal motives are a matter of choice. The political careerist will always try to stretch his personal power — and, incidentally, his paycheck.

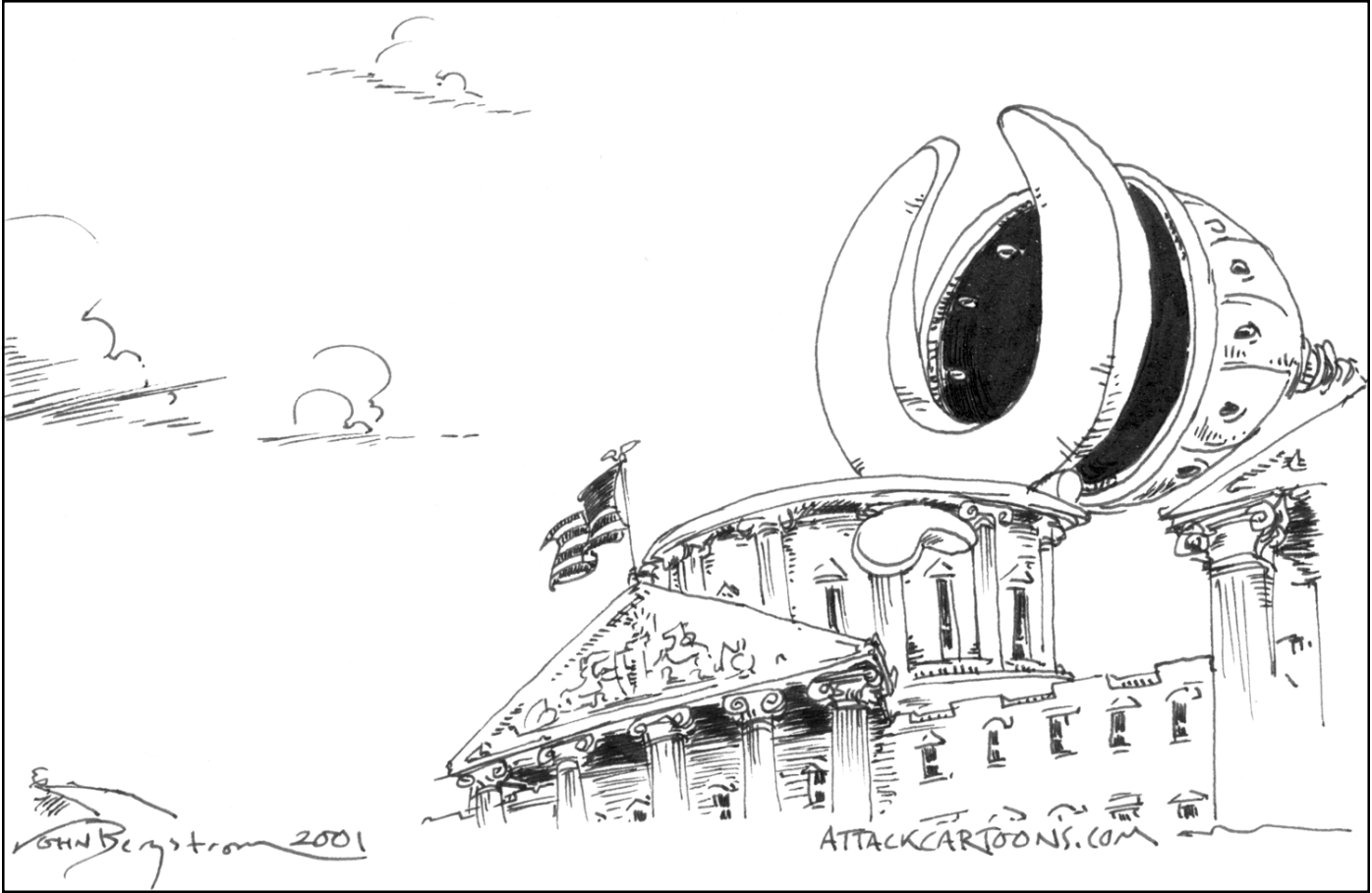
But term limits do help those citizen legislators who do want to put public the public good ahead of their own narrow political good.

Another thing that could help is a roll call before any pay raise can take effect. A measure on the November ballot would require legislators to explicitly accept any new hikes. If enacted, it could help voters tell who is a citizen legislator and who is a career politician.

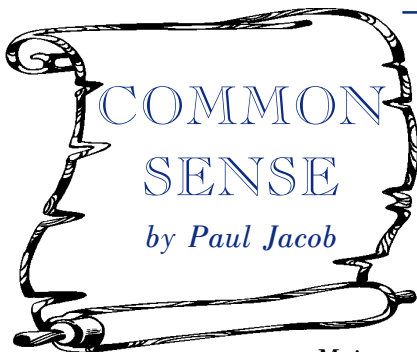
Where would we be without term limits . . . or, for that matter, ballot initiatives? ■

**Last year, legislators in Michigan doled out a 36 percent pay raise to themselves, just in time to beat the economic downturn. And now they've been awarded another 2.9 percent.**





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



### **The Maine Event**

If you would like to receive  
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I've got an advisory for Maine today. Actually it's more for the career politicians there, but I guess it's okay to share it with you too.

It's about priorities. You see, voters in Maine have passed term limits. Passed them years ago. It's a done deal. But you career politicians aren't happy with it. You keep trying to trounce the will of the people.

So I'm issuing this here advisory: "Get a life, Mr. Career Politician. Do your regular job and stop hassling the voters. You no longer have a permanent monopoly on power. Accept it and move on."

This advisory responds to a new bill in the Maine legislature seeking an "advisory referendum" to repeal term limits. It's the sort of tricky-Dick anti-democratic conniving that goes against every bit of advice I've ever given.

The politicians tried the same kind of thing in Idaho a

few years back. To kill term limits in such a way that the voters wouldn't realize what was going on, the Idaho legislature posted a very slanted ballot title. The measure was just "advisory," so the courts were not allowed to make sure the title was fairly worded.

But though the Idaho legislature slanted the question in their favor, term limits still triumphed at the ballot box. Yet Idaho career politicians still wailed that the voters had been fooled! What happened, of course, was that the voters had refused to be fooled.

When oh when will you political careerists stop trying to beat up on the voters? Don't you guys have anything else to do? ■

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## THEY SAID IT

### Sinking Ship of State

“Relatively few incumbent politicians are defeated in the normal course of events. Absent term limits, significant turnover only occurs after years of fiscal irresponsibility and incompetence. In most jurisdictions, the ship of state apparently has to sink before the crew can be fired, such are the advantages of incumbency.”

—*The Cato Institute*  
February 9, 2002

### Incumbents Running Scared

“Local Republicans weren’t pleased when they discovered their booth at the South Florida Fair was next to a group petitioning for a two-term limit on county commissioners.”

County GOP Chairwoman Mary McCarty is a three-term commissioner running for a fourth this fall. McCarty had the Republicans moved to a booth in a different building.”

—*Palm Beach Post*  
January 28, 2002

### The Arrogance of Career Politicians

“Twice Idaho’s citizens have voted to limit the number of terms their elected officials serve — once in 1994 and again in a 1998 advisory vote. Last year, the state Supreme Court upheld term limits after they were struck down by a district judge. Apparently, our legislators believe their wishes take precedence over an edict issued directly by the voters.”

—*Idaho State Journal*  
February 3, 2002

**“[Term limits] are a useful tool to keep those who want to regulate our lives and spend our money constantly on the run, scurrying for new forms of ungainful employment. The entertainment value alone makes term limits worth protecting. The post-term-limits world is like a non-stop game of musical chairs, with the contestants circling round and round trying to grasp the last chair, lest they be banished to — perish the thought! — the private sector.”**

**—*The Orange County Register*  
February 10, 2002**

### The Voices of Ordinary People

“Those who continue to support [term limits] say the laws have brought more diversity into the political process. In 1990, there were nine Latinos, and 17 women in the California statehouse, for instance. Today, there are 26 and 34 respectively.”

‘There are more teachers, doctors, small business people in government now bringing the voices of ordinary people into the process where they were absent before,’ says Dan Schnur, a political analyst at the University of California, Berkeley, and an advisor to the ‘No on 45’ campaign.”

—*Anchorage Daily News*  
February 7, 2002

### California Con Job

“[W]e hope Californians will wake up to the con job that’s being foisted on them over term limits. If elected officials were half as imaginative at solving California’s problems as they are at perpetuating themselves in office, government would have a much better reputation.”

—*The Wall Street Journal*  
January 28, 2002

## Self-Limiter Mark Sanford Looks Ahead

At the end of the 106th Congress, Rep. Mark Sanford (R-SC) packed his bags and headed back to South Carolina, keeping his pledge to only serve three terms in the House. He really never put down roots in Washington — his family stayed in Charleston while he slept on a futon in his Capitol Hill office.

The U.S. Term Limits Foundation praised Sanford for keeping his promise to voters. “With public confidence in their law-makers at an all-time low, it’s good to know that some still regard their word as their bond,” commented U.S. Term Limits Senior Fellow Paul Jacob, upon hearing Sanford was sticking to his pledge.

Sanford has since turned his attention to the 2002 South Carolina gubernatorial race. He began his campaign for

the GOP nomination with a whirlwind tour of the state early last year. Sanford will compete against six other candidates seeking the Republican nomination in the June primary.

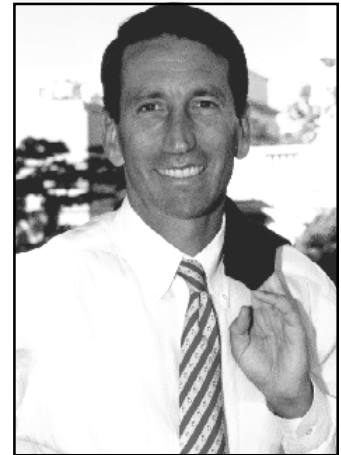
High on Sanford’s agenda are taxes, spending, and public education, which Sanford believes South Carolina must reform in order to become competitive with its southeast neighbors. He recently proposed eliminating the state individual income tax over the next 18 years, which has been applauded by the National Taxpayers Union.

Sanford has been receiving kind words and increasing support for his campaign.

“Sanford would bring with him an aura of intelligence, level-headedness and the promise that what he says during the campaign, he will do if he wins the governor’s office,” said the *Myrtle Beach Sun News*.

Sanford, along with the U.S. Term Limits Foundation, published a book of congressional memoirs titled *The Trust Committed to Me*. The book outlines the events and everyday activities Sanford experienced while serving in the U.S. House of Representatives.

For more information on Mark Sanford and his campaign, visit his web site at [www.sanfordforgovernor.com](http://www.sanfordforgovernor.com). ■



**Former South Carolina Rep. Mark Sanford**

Kept his promise to step down from his congressional service after three terms. He has now entered the South Carolina gubernatorial race.

**“[Mark] Sanford would bring with him an aura of intelligence, level-headedness and the promise that what he says during the campaign, he will do if he wins the governor’s office.”**

**— Myrtle Beach Sun News**

*“No On 45,” cont. from page 1*

who would like to continue cozy relationships with career politicians,” Lew Uhler, chairman of the “No On 45: Stop the Politicians” campaign was quoted as saying.

More than a decade ago, California became one of the first states to pass term limits, limiting state lawmakers to six years in the Assembly and eight years in the Senate.

Now that politicians are actually being affected by term limits, they’re

desperate to rig the deck in their favor. On March 5, California voters will re-enter the voting booths and vote on Prop 45. The initiative would enable voters to let their incumbent legislators extend their time in office beyond the current term limits.

More specifically, it would allow voters in individual legislative districts to sign petitions allowing their termed-out legislator to run for re-election and serve a maximum of four more years.

Californians still “overwhelmingly

support term limits,” said Dan Schnur, No On 45’s campaign advisor. Lawmakers, he said, “know an initiative would be slaughtered.”

On February 6, No On 45 displayed a billboard on I-80 outside of Sacramento that read, “NO Career Politicians, NO Enron Money, NO on Proposition 45.” Later in February, the billboard was changed to, “Stop Career Politicians, Save Term Limits, Vote NO on Proposition 45,” and will remain there throughout the campaign. ■

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## **PUBLIC SUPPORT**

# Arizona Voters Favor Term Limits

A recent poll of 406 registered Arizona voters reconfirms where the citizens of Arizona stand on the issue of term limits.

The poll, released by Arizona State University's Channel 8 and the school's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, found that voters in Arizona support keeping term limits by a two-to-one margin. Fifty-eight percent favored keeping term limits, 27 percent favored repealing them and 15 percent had no opinion.

As usual, however, politicians are less than thrilled with term limits. On January 15, Arizona Governor Jane Hull gave her State of the State address. Some of the issues she covered included taxes, Arizona's budget deficit, and term limits, where her calls for expansion or outright repeal drew the biggest applause from lawmakers.

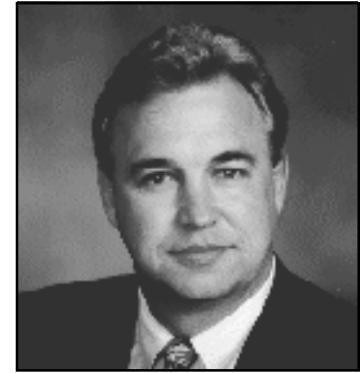
She said, "a limit of four two-year terms for legislators has created a revolving door for talented leaders and given undue power to staff members and lobbyists." She went on to say

that, "every two years a wealth of institutional knowledge must leave . . . whether the constituents like it or not."

Momentum to repeal or expand Arizona's term limits may be gaining steam in the legislature due to Governor Hull's recent words on the issue.

There are a few politicians, however, who take the citizens seriously. On the day of Governor Hull's address, former Arizona Representative Matt Salmon, who voluntarily limited himself to three terms in office, spoke out in favor of term limits.

"We hear a lot of rhetoric about special interests, but career politicians are the ultimate special interest," Salmon said. "Studies from the Goldwater Institute and Cato Institute have shown that term limits help control the growth of government spending, and they bring fresh ideas to government. It is the height of conceit to claim that only a career politician can understand the legislative process. I will work to honor the will of Arizona's voters and keep term limits in place."



**Former Arizona Rep. Matt Salmon**

Spoke up in favor of term limits on the same day Arizona's governor trashed them before the legislature.

(Salmon is currently campaigning for Governor Hull's vacant seat. For more information on Matt Salmon and his campaign, visit his campaign web site at [www.SalmonForGovernor.com](http://www.SalmonForGovernor.com).)

Let's hope that the lawmakers honor the wishes of the people and leave Arizona's term limits the way they are. With such a clear public mandate in favor of term limits, any efforts to get rid of them are bound to fail. ■

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