

No Uncertain Terms

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Judge Smacks Down Anti-Term Limits Move in Michigan

In a unanimous decision, the 6th District Court of Appeals affirmed the constitutionality of Michigan's legislative term limits law.

"This ruling is a victory for the people of Michigan and term limits supporters everywhere," said Scott Tillman, a resident of Grand Rapids who serves as National Field Director for U.S. Term Limits. "It stands for the principle that our legal system will provide no lifeline for sleazy career politicians who are looking to evade term limits. This ruling affirms that enacting term limits is a proper exercise of each citizen's constitutional rights."

"In addition, we would like to thank Michigan Attorneys General Frank Kelly, who defended the State's Constitution in 1998, and Dana Nessel, for their commendable effort in defending the Michigan Constitution," said economist Patrick Anderson, who worked on the 1992 statewide ballot drive for term limits.

The Michigan Legislature has the shortest term limits in the country: 2 terms (8 years), in the Senate,



Judge Amal Thapar sided with the people of Michigan denying legislators in their bid to throw out state term limits.

and 3 terms (6 years), in the House. It also has the 4th highest salary for legislators. It's no surprise here that the state's political elite would want to do anything

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Term Limits Showdown in Texas Congressional Race

A new survey of likely Democratic voters in Texas' 28th district shows Jessica Cisneros slightly ahead of incumbent Rep. Henry Cuellar and poised to take a bigger lead after Cisneros signed the U.S. Term Limits pledge.

According to the poll, which was conducted by RMG Research, Cisneros currently edges out Cuellar 36%-35%, which is within the margin of error. But when voters are informed that Cisneros has signed the pledge to support a constitutional amendment for term limits on Congress – while Cuellar opposes term limits – Cisneros jumps out to a 35-point lead (57%-22%).

"This poll confirms that voters are tired of the status quo in Washington and ready for change," said Nick Tomboulides, Executive Director of U.S. Term Limits. "We applaud Jessica Cisneros for signing the pledge and making a commitment to support real term limits on Congress." Henry Cuellar has refused to sign the U.S. Term Limits pledge.

Overall, 84% of likely Democratic Party voters in District 28 favor congressional term limits, with 74% preferring a six-year limit for members of the U.S. House. By signing the pledge, Cisneros has committed to

(cont'd on page 7)



Direct mail piece sent to Texas congressional district 28 residents



Looking Ahead to a Promising 2022

Before we look at the upcoming legislative session, let's reflect on the top 5 term limits achievements of 2021.

#1. Success in passing our resolutions at the state level. Our term limits resolutions were filed in 17 states passing both houses in West Virginia. And, we passed at least one chamber in North Carolina, Louisiana, Tennessee, Georgia, and Arizona. Several of these carry over into 2022 and we'll only have to pass one chamber in three states for a win.

#2. Federal judge denies Michigan lawmakers' attempt to overthrow state term limits. The people of Michigan scored a victory as the judge ruled that the plaintiffs could not throw out term limits voted in by the people through judicial action.

#3. The longest serving state house speaker resigned after 37 years. Mike Madigan resigned following a corruption scandal. During his reign, Illinois' fiscal rating dropped to junk bound status.

#4. We have the most legislator pledges in the history of USTL. 95 members of Congress and nearly 700 state lawmakers have signed the term limits pledge. We are poised to pass our resolutions through more states in 2022.

#5. The Pope imposed term limits. Pope Francis, the Catholic Church Bishop of Rome, mandated 10-year term limits on 100 lay organizations across the globe.

2022 is starting off with a term limits bang. Right off the bat, Governor Kathleen Hochul of New York indicated in her state-of-the-state address that she wants to term limit her own position as well as other statewide positions.

On Jan. 10th, Democratic Party term limits pledge signer Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, of Florida's 20th congressional district, won the special election to fill career politician Alcee Hastings' vacant seat.

We have already filed 2022 term limits convention resolutions in Indiana, Kentucky, South Dakota, Arizona, and Idaho. Our bills carry over in Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin with more being filed soon.

With the midterms quickly approaching, we are running a massive term limits education campaign with billboards, digital ads, and direct mail to encourage candidates to sign the pledge and lawmakers to pass our resolutions..

2022 promises to be an exciting year.

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“More than 20 years ago, the people of Michigan chose a citizen legislature, not a professional one.

Now, legislators with years of experience seek to use the federal courts to get around their state's sovereign choice. But it's not our place to intervene on their behalf.

If they want to change the law, they'll have to do that at the ballot box.”
— Judge Amal Thapar
Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals

Democratic Party Pledge Signer Wins Florida 20 Seat

Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick has won the special election to Florida’s congressional district 20, a seat that became vacant due to the death of U.S. Rep. Alcee Hastings.

McCormick signed the U.S. Term Limits pledge in August 2021. With it, she promised that as a member of Congress, she will cosponsor and vote for a resolution to amend the U.S. Constitution to term limit U.S. Senators to 12 years and U.S. Representatives to 6 years.

Cherfilus-McCormick is an attorney and CEO of a health organization. She ran against Hastings in 2018 and 2020 and lost both times to the incumbent who had held the seat for 28 years from 1993 until his death last April at the age of 84.



Congressmember-elect Cherfilus-McCormick: pledge signer wins Florida’s 20th congressional district special election seat.

Progress: Where Term Limits Convention Resolutions Currently Stand Across the Country

States that passed our term limits resolution:	Florida, Alabama, Missouri, West Virginia
Passed in one chamber:	Tennessee House, Georgia Senate, North Carolina House.
Awaiting committee vote:	U.S. House and Senate, Georgia House, Tennessee Senate, North Carolina Senate, Arizona, Idaho, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Indiana, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

Email your representatives in these states at termlimits.com/takeaction.

Will NY Be the Next State to Term Limit Its Governor?



Democratic New York Gov. Kathleen Hochul wants to term limit her office.

New York Governor, Kathleen Hochul, plans to term limit her own office as well as cabinet positions. Her announcement, entitled “2022 State of the State Proposal – Aimed at Restoring Trust, Integrity, and Accountability in Government” Hochul declared her first proposal is to institute limits of two consecutive terms for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and Comptroller via an amendment to the state Constitution.

According to the press release Hochul states, “I want people to believe in their government again. With these bold reforms, we will ensure New Yorkers know their leaders work for them and are focused on serving the people of this state.”

The proposal requires the approval of the state legislature and the voters. Should it pass, New York would become the 37th state to impose term limits on its governor. Term limits in New York City have brought diversity to the offices of city council members and mayor, a much needed change in Albany.

Term Limits News Across the Country

North Region



USTL Volunteer Mike Riley testifies in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania: North Region Director Ken Quinn and volunteer Mike Riley testified during a hearing at the Pennsylvania House State government subcommittee on campaign finance & elections.

Maine: Three Republican executive committees unanimously passed resolutions urging the legislature to pass a term limits resolution which would add Maine to the 34 states needed to call a convention. Committee support for term limits on Congress sends a strong message to candidates encouraging them to sign the USTL pledge and co-sponsor the state term limits resolution.

West Region

Arizona: We prefiled our term limits resolution and tabled at a Turning Point USA event where we gathered hundreds of petition signatures.

California: West Region Director Ron Hooper spoke at an Article V Academy event in San Diego. The nonprofit hosted several organizations to bring awareness to the authority granted to the states to amend the U.S. Constitution. Hooper's speech focused on the benefits of term limiting Congress and how this important election reform will set the trajectory for positive change.

Six volunteers in San Louis Obispo, led by Gordon Mullin and Steve Moore, completed another successful Thursday night gathering petition signatures at the farmers market where they have committed to ten months of tabling.

Idaho: John Parker, an Idaho Falls volunteer, successfully collected 100 petitions at a local gun show. Also in Idaho, we prefiled our term limits resolution in the state legislature.

Central Region

Region-wide: Our volunteers are working in three main areas of focus for grassroots volunteers 1) petition drives, 2) candidate pledge gathering, and 3) passing county resolutions.

Sign up to volunteer at termlimits.com/volunteer.

Indiana: Filed House Joint Resolution 2.

Tennessee: Volunteers Joshua Allen and Stephen Coley got well over 100 petition signatures tabling at a gun show in Kingsport, TN.



Tennessee volunteers garnered >100 petition signatures

South Dakota: Filed Senate Joint Resolution 298.

Kentucky: Filed Bill Request 989.

South Region

South Carolina. We are forming potential coalitions with allied groups to promote term limits and the adoption of our county party resolution. These groups include The Push Back Alliance in Akin County, the S.C. Federation of Republican Men in Charleston and Dorchester counties, the Friends of Liberty and Palmetto Citizens for Informed Governance in Beaufort County.

Florida. We attended the ALEC conference in Tampa, Florida to meet with legislators where several signed the pledge and committed to supporting our term limits resolution in their respective states.

USTL Spotlight: Scott Tillman, National Field Director

Time with USTL: Most recently since 2015, but on and off since 2004.

Term Limits Moment Most Proud Of: I'm most proud of the state and local term limits campaigns where I was able to go in and help activists cross the finish line. When I was not working with U.S. Term limits in 2014, I helped gather signatures to put city council term limits on the ballot. The election was much closer than I expected. After the campaign, I did some investigating and I exposed how a political science professor who is a Dean at a prestigious Grand Rapids college working with lobbyists cheated during the campaign by neglecting to report several large campaign donations. My investigation resulted in large fines for the committee opposing term limits.

Why Do I Do This? Political power concentrated in the hands of few people is bad. Cronyism, lack of transparency, and the disconnect from the citizens are problems that stem from political power being concentrated in the hands of too few people for too long. Term limits is the correct way for us to break up the concentration of political power.

Fun Fact: I was an independent trucker who got started with U.S. Term Limits when they needed someone who could pull a 12-foot wooden Trojan horse parade float around Arkansas in 2004.



Scott Tillman is the National Field Director of U.S. Term Limits. He resides in Michigan with his family.



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State Chairs Blitzing the Media Waves

As official spokespeople for U.S. Term Limits in their designated areas, State Chairs have been commanding media attention with television and radio interviews.

Newly appointed Pennsylvania co-chairs, former state senators Andrew Dinniman of the Democratic party, and John Eichelberger, a Republican, hit the ground running. The duo made at least three media appearances including ABC News 57's "This Week in Pennsylvania." Both are well respected in Pennsylvania politics, a signal to current lawmakers that term limits is truly a bipartisan issue.

Mayor Glenn Jacobs was on a whirlwind tour of Tennessee scheduling in-person appearances as well as television and radio interviews stumping for term limits on both Congress and the state legislature. These include WGNS radio's Rutherford Magazine and News Channel 5's Open Line television program.

We are excited to announce that former Iowa Congressman Rod Blum has agreed to co-chair the state with Terry Henderson. Blum participated in a handful of radio interviews across the Hawkeye state including an appearance on "Voices of the Tri-states." In Congress, Rep. Blum founded the House Term Limits Caucus with fellow term limits supporter Beto O'Rourke, now running for governor of Texas.

In Utah, State Chair Tina Cannon discussed term limits with Lara Jones on "RadioACTIVE".



PA Co-Chairs: John Eichelberger & Andrew Dinniman

Jason Church, our super-star Wisconsin state chair is also showing his media prowess by eloquently advocating for term limits in his interviews including an appearance on "Upfront with Vicki McKenna" on NewsTalk 1130 out of Madison.

With the added support of the state chairs blitzing the media waves as well as their relationship building in the state capitols, we anticipate more states will pass our convention call in 2022. If you see them on your local news or favorite podcasts be sure to share to spread the word! You may find some of these on youtube channel at youtube.com/ustermimits.



Iowa Co-Chair: former Congressman Rod Blum

What YOU Can Do to Help Impose Term Limits on Congress

Volunteer at termimits.com/volunteer/

U.S. Term Limits is looking for volunteers who can spend an hour or more a week, working from home, helping to end career politicians everywhere. You'll be able to shine as a member of our grassroots team in whatever capacity suits you best.

Grassroots activism can be anything you want it to be...from writing emails to your state politicians, hosting a petition drive, or starting a local group to lead a more coordinated effort. Regardless, anyone can help! It's high time we get #UnitedforTermLimits!

Judge Smack Down... (cont'd from page 1)

they could to retain power, and their paycheck.

In the opinion, Judge Amal Thapar cited Benjamin Franklin, who argued in favor of term limits at the Constitutional Convention of 1787:

“In free governments, the rulers are the servants, and the people their superiors and sovereigns. For the former to return among the latter was not to degrade, but to promote them.”

Thapar added that Michigan voters adopted term limits with a rational basis in mind: “to reduce political careerism and check special interests.” He concluded, “The people of Michigan had the same idea... it’s not our place to second-guess how Michiganders choose to design their state legislature.”

The decision, made by a panel of three judges, a Clinton, Bush, and Trump appointee, substantiates that term limits stand the test of partisanship and time.

Michigan’s legislative term limits were placed on

the ballot in 1992 via a citizen petition led by Greg Schmid, Patrick Anderson, Kurt O’Keefe and many others from around the state. Nearly 2.3 million citizens voted in favor, passing by a landslide 17.5-point margin.

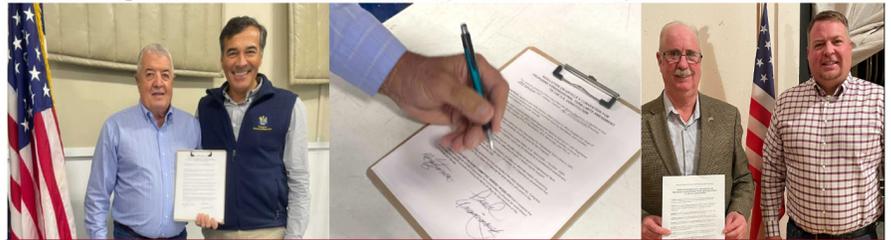
Texas Showdown... (cont'd from page 1)

cosponsor and vote for a constitutional amendment limiting House members to three terms (six-years) and senators to two terms (12-years). This amendment was previously cosponsored by Rep. Beto O’Rourke (D-TX) during his time as co-chair of the Congressional Term Limits Caucus.

RMG Research is owned and operated by Scott Rasmussen. The survey of 400 potential primary voters in Texas congressional district 28 was conducted using a mixed mode approach. Most respondents were contacted online or via text while 68 were contacted using automated phone polling techniques.

82%
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Outrageous Congress! 52 members violate STOCK Act



Fifty-two members of Congress violated the STOCK Act, a law designed to combat insider trading and conflicts of interest in the stock market. The law aimed to force congressmembers to be more transparent in their financial dealings. With six senators and forty-six representatives in violation of the Act, it goes without saying that the crooked politicians of D.C. will continue to do what they do best, enrich their own pockets while they subvert the laws ordinary citizens must obey.

Save the date: TERMLIMITS DAY IS FEBRUARY 27TH!