

# No Uncertain Terms

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## North Dakota High Court Orders Term Limits on the Ballot

Term limits for the North Dakota state legislative assembly and the governor could be just around the corner. In September, the Supreme Court of North Dakota overturned a lower court decision and ordered the Secretary of State to place the term limits initiative on the November 8, 2022 general election ballot.



*Edward Greim petitions the North Dakota Supreme Court on behalf of the term limits initiative*

Oral arguments were heard in case 2022 ND 168, Jared Hendrix and North Dakota for Term Limits Sponsoring Committee vs Alvin Jaeger, North Dakota

Secretary of State. The petition of writ mandamus was granted on behalf of a unanimous court in a written judgment.

The opinion concluded that Jaeger misapplied the law when he excluded 15,740 signatures on the basis that a pattern of presumed notary violations on some petitions permitted invalidation of all the signatures on all the petitions sworn before the same notary. In other words, Jaeger improperly tossed out thousands of petitions validated by one notary

(cont'd on page 7)

## Missouri Passes Term Limits Convention Resolution

Second time's a charm in Missouri. In May, the Missouri state legislature passed the U.S. Term Limits convention resolution...again. You may ask... why did the state have to pass it twice? And the answer would be... "because politicians."

When the resolution passed back in 2018, a sunset clause amendment was added at the last minute. A term limits opponent successfully set a five-year expiration date on Missouri's application...and time was running out. We attempted to pass the resolution again in 2021, but it was not to be. If we could not get it to pass this year, we would have one last shot during the 2023 legislative session or the measure would lapse, wiping Missouri from our win column.

We had to fight for term limits on Congress in the "show me" state, which incidentally has term limits on its own legislature, again.

Missouri State Senator Eric Burlison took up the mantle in the upper chamber and introduced Senate



*Missouri State Senator Eric Burlison*

Concurrent Resolution 25 (SCR25) in January, 2022. There, it passed through committee and the entire senate before moving to the lower chamber.

(cont'd on page 7)



## President's Corner BY PHILIP BLUMEL

### Voters Defend Against Career Politicians Over and Over

How many times do the voters of Memphis have to shout "Eight is enough!"?

On August 4th, 66% of Memphis, Tennessee voters shot down a proposal put on the ballot by the Memphis City Council to change the two-term limit of eight-year max on the mayor and council to a three-term limit of twelve years.

The last time the voters were asked this exact same question by the council was just four years ago. In 2018, 60% of the voters said no to gutting term limits.

It wasn't that long ago that voters in Memphis first put term limits on the ballot and passed it. The popular voter-approved eight-year term limits were first enacted in 2008.

This year, a political action committee known as Memphis for Growth and Progress purchased more than \$100,000 in advertising to try to convince Memphis voters to put the interests of the politicians and special interests above their own.

But where did this money come from? We could only guess. As the PAC's campaign finance filing suggests, the money came from another PAC called Re-envision Memphis, and that PAC doesn't specify the source of the funds. But having been involved in hundreds of these campaigns, I'm quite confident all

the money came from special interests who routinely do business with the council.

But grasping Memphis politicians are only playing catch-up with the breathlessly arrogant politicians of Nashville's Metro Council, who have asked voters six times to repeal or weaken their voter-approved eight-year term limits. The first time was in 1996, just two years after the term limits were originally voted in in 1994, then again in 1998, two years later, then 2002, 2008, 2015, 2018. Vigilant voters clearly say "no".

The same can be said about Arkansas and Michigan state legislators. They put measures on the ballot to increase their term limits by obfuscating the numbers and deliberately misleading the voters to think they are voting to reduce terms and increase transparency, when what they're actually doing is deceiving the public and INCREASING term limits. They're not being transparent at all.

The politicians of both of those states were willing to lie to weaken their term limits. They know that the voters love term limits and would say "no" to gutting them every time. Some states have figured out, after failing multiple times, that the only way to extend their stay in office is to resort to deceit through confusing ballot language.

*"The Secretary of State's decision to invalidate all signatures on petitions having circulator oaths notarized by Zeph Toe was a misapplication of law. We grant the Committee's petition and issue a writ of mandamus requiring the Secretary of State to place the Term Limits Initiative on the November 8, 2022, general election ballot."*

~unanimous decision of the Supreme Court of North Dakota September 7, 2022

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## Record Breaking 102 Incumbent Signers in Congress

Candidates for Congress and incumbents alike are endorsing term limits... even if that means limiting time in their own offices. Term limiting Congress is such a hot topic, the candidates who show they support term limits by signing our pledge are winning their elections.

There are now 102 sitting members of the U.S. House and U.S. Senate who have signed the term limits pledge. That number bumps up even more if you count members who cosponsored our resolution yet have not signed the pledge. This is historic, record breaking support demonstrating our movement has momentum.

This summer, pledge signers Mike Flood and Mayra Flores won seats in Nebraska's 1st congressional district and Texas's 34th congressional district, respectively. Flood filled the seat vacated by Rep. Jeff Fortenberry who was sentenced to two years of probation for lying to the FBI about illegal contributions to his 2016 reelection campaign.

Flores is the first female Mexican-born member of the U.S. House.



U.S. House Rep. Mike Flood of Nebraska and Rep. Mayra Flores of Texas, both signed the term limits pledge and won their special elections.

### U.S. Term Limits Education Program Holds Politicians Accountable

A major strategy of our pledge program is to educate the community on whether or not a particular candidate supports term limits. In addition, we inform constituents if a lawmaker decides not to support term limits or not to honor his or her pledge.

This year, we've launched a massive omnichannel education program using mailers, billboards, polling, videos, door hangers and digital advertisements. As part of this, we send out positive mailers for candidates who have publicly endorsed term limits asking

constituents to show their appreciation.

On the flip side, we also inform the public about those candidates or incumbents who adamantly refuse to support term limits or who have voted against our term limits resolutions.

We contact candidates to get their disposition on term limits. We call, email, contact them on social media, and send mailers of the pledge to nearly every single viable candidate in all the congressional and state legislative races. And it's working.

So far, the program has had outstanding success. Many candidates who refused to cosponsor, suddenly had a change of heart and backed our resolution. Several challengers who signed the pledge ousted incumbents who refused to support term limits. Others have jumped on the bandwagon and not only signed the pledge, but include term limits on their platforms, bring the topic up in speeches and interviews, and make their own videos endorsing this critical election reform.



102 pledge signers in Congress



>860...  
pledge signers  
in state legislatures



82%  
of America

resolutions  
introduced in  
17  
states



## Term Limits Activism Across the Country



Maine volunteers getting pages of petitions signed at event.



KY Chair, Rachel McCubbin on national broadcast discussing term limits.

## Michigan Transparency Bill a Scheme to Double Terms

*Term Limits – Popular Everywhere Outside the Lansing Beltway*

In 1992, more than 60% of the voters approved the best term limits law in the nation. However, the Michigan political class has been attempting to gut the citizen enacted term limits since 1992.

Elected members of the state legislature approved this scam in a secret session to deceive the voters so they can serve in office longer than the current term limits allow. These slimey politicians even had the audacity to package it with a transparency law. This scam isn't transparent at all!

If Measure 1 passes, state house representatives would be able to double the time they could serve in office. It would also permit former elected officials, who have been term limited out of office, to run for election again.

Measure 1 was written by politicians and powerful lobbyists to benefit politicians and powerful lobbyists... not the citizens of Michigan.

That's why we must stop Measure 1 from passing. They knew the voters would never double terms so they resorted to trickery. The big special interest groups are well-funded but we, the people, are more powerful when we unite and take action.



Ohio Chair, Bernie Moreno (center-right) after presenting to students at Kent State University.



Oklahoma State Director Chris Keener (left), Regional Director Ken Clark (right) with pledge signer State Rep. Mickey Dollens.



Swampy pushing for term limits at Fancy Farm, a political event.



Idaho State Director Carri Campbell with volunteer Sandra Mitchell



Ben Chamblee tabling at a convention in Colorado (above); Indiana chair Micah Beckwith presenting to a packed house (below).

## Congressmember Byron Donalds on Term Limits

U.S. Rep Byron Donalds is a member of Congress and businessman representing southwest Florida's 19th district since 2021. His district includes the areas in Florida hit hardest by Hurricane Ian: Cape Coral, Fort Myers, and Naples.

Prior to his election to Congress, Donalds was an active champion of term limits as a Florida state legislator. Earlier this year, he explained to Forbes online Breaking News that he has brought his embrace of this popular election reform to the Capitol Hill.

**Interviewer:** Do you have a specific amount of time that you think you're going to remain in Congress or that you would like to be in Congress for?

**Donalds:** Oh man, at most, you got a decade out of me. At most, you got 10 years, and then I got to move on. You know, I'm 43. Serving 10 years, I'll be 52. 52, 53. Man, I want to go back and make money. I like money. Money's a cool thing. I want to go back to the private sector and make money. Or if you go higher, then you go higher in the political apparatus. But I am not a congressional lifer. I do not see myself sitting in the halls of Congress for multiple decades. That's just not me.

**Interviewer:** So, I'm guessing, then, you might be supportive of term limits for members of Congress?

**Donalds:** Very supportive. I'm a product of term limits. I come from a state where you're term-limited in the state legislature. If there weren't term limits in Florida, I don't think I would have been afforded the ability to be elected. And if I wasn't afforded the ability to be elected at the state level, I highly doubt I would be elected here at the federal level. I know that the people who argue against term limits would say that, "Well, all you do is empower staff, or you empower lobbyists, or you lose some institutional knowledge," but I think the good far outweighs the bad. I think that what

you get when you have term limits is you have members who are focused, much more focused on accomplishing what they can accomplish in the time period they're here, because there is no tomorrow.

In a state legislature, most state legislatures have a specific period of time that they meet, because some legislatures are actually term-limited. There's a specific period of time they meet. So you got to get it done. In Congress, there are no deadlines. The only deadlines we deal with here are debt ceiling limits, and we have to fund the government. Those are the two big deadlines here. That's not good enough for the American people.

Thank you, Rep. Donalds for your unwavering support of term limits!



U.S. Representative Byron Donalds with his family

## N.D. Court Orders Term Limits on Ballot (cont'd from page 1)

because he imputed fraud on a portion of those submitted.

Jaeger's unilateral decision nearly prevented the initiative from making the ballot in November.

According to the decision of the justices, "Jaeger acknowledged his office has never before invalidated all petitions from a single notary, and he cited no authority from any jurisdiction in which a class of documents relating to a notary had been invalidated as a result of notarial fraud or other misconduct."

The number of valid petitions after this decision exceeds the number required to make the ballot. It will appear as Initiated Constitutional Measure No. 1. A yes vote indicates the voter agrees that the governor and each chamber of the house should be subjected to 8-year lifetime term limits in each office. If approved, the law goes into effect January 2023. Years of service prior to implementation are would not be counted towards the limit.

"The highest court in our state – consisting of North Dakota's top legal minds – concluded that our ballot drive for term limits on the legislature and governor was conducted legally and voters will get to decide Measure 1 for term limits November 8th," says Hendrix, chair of the initiative's sponsoring committee.

Scott Tillman of U.S. Term Limits applauds the court's decision. "The North Dakota Secretary of State attempted to silence the voice of the people. Fortunately, justice prevailed. We look forward to the voters



Jared Hendrix, Chair of North Dakota for Term Limits

of North Dakota passing term limits on the state legislature and governor this November," he said.

In a 2020 survey of term limits in North Dakota, an overwhelming 83% of the respondents want term limits on the governor, and 82% support term limits on the state lawmakers.

The measure, once passed, would take effect January 1, 2023, placing an eight-year limit on the governor, on members of the state senate, and on members of the state house. The limits would be prospective for each office and prior time of service would not be counted in the eight-year limit.

Currently, thirty-six states have some form of term limit on the office of governor. North Dakota is one of fourteen states that do not. There are fifteen states with term limits on the state legislature.

## Missouri Passes Term Limits Resolution (continued from page 1)

"I see an Article V convention of the states as the only way to achieve our goal of congressional term limits," Sen. Burlison said. "We have individuals in Congress who were elected to their first term well over 40 years ago, making them a career politician in my eyes. I believe by establishing term limits, we will reduce the chance that one person holds excessive influence over public policy."

In the state house, SCR25 passed the general laws committee. While in the legislative oversight hearing, a representative attempted to amend our resolution again with a new five-year sunset clause which would

cause it to expire in 2027. Fortunately, he was denied his motion and our resolution passed through the second committee unamended.

Thankfully, Senator Burlison and the U.S. Term Limits' team, led by executive director Nicolas Tom-boulides and director of the central region, Aaron Dukette, tenaciously shepherded the measure through to adoption. On May 10, 2022, the Article V application for a term limits convention was renewed by the Missouri state legislature, this time, with no built-in expiration date.

## What YOU Can Do to Help Impose Term Limits on Congress

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!

Volunteer at [termlimits.com/volunteer/](https://termlimits.com/volunteer/)

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## Outrageous Congress! Rep. Young dies at 88.



In March, Alaska's lone incumbent representative for nearly 50 years died unexpectedly at the age of 88 on a flight back from D.C. He was the only representative many of Alaska's residents had ever known. His successor, Rep. Mary Peltola, aged 49, was born five months after Young was sworn in.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the median age in the "last frontier" state is 34.6 years. The June 11th special election to fill the seat had as many candidates in the race as years Young held office. Let this be an argument for term limits that 1) no one person's service should surpass the median age of the population 2) term limits would reduce the number of incumbents who stay way past their prime and 3) term limits DO NOT REDUCE CHOICE. In this case, an open seat produced nearly 50 candidates!

**Sign the petition at [termlimits.com/petition](http://termlimits.com/petition)**