

No Uncertain Terms

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Record Number of Term Limits Pledge Signers Elected

This mid-term general election, 98% of the incumbents in the U.S. House and 100% of the incumbents in the U.S. Senate who were up for re-election won their races (see story on page 3). Despite this massive incumbent tsunami, several seats opened up due to regular attrition through congressional retirements and resignations.

With open seats, comes tremendous opportunity for term limits champions to get elected into office. This year, due to our relentless persistence, a record number of congressional candidates who signed the U.S. Term Limits pledge were elected to the 118th Congress. This victory amounts to a 28.4% increase over the percentage who promised to support term limits during the last Congress.



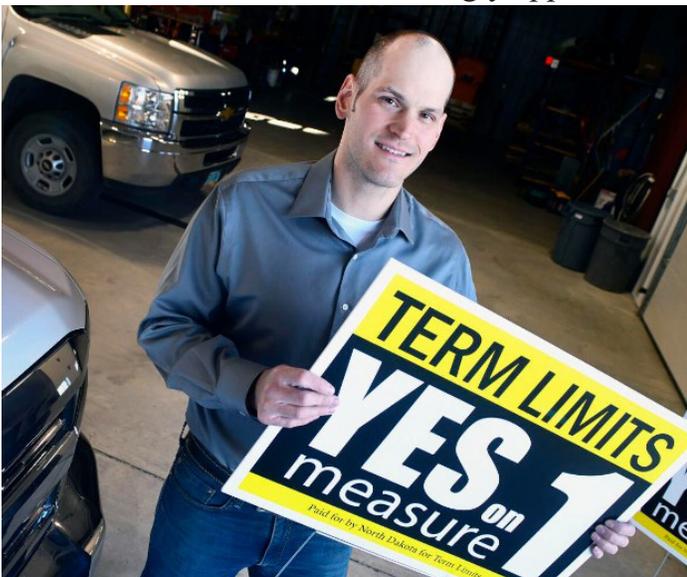
While there are still a few uncalled races at the time of this printing, 131 congressmembers-elect pledged that they will cosponsor and vote for the U.S. Term Limits Amendment of three (3) House

(cont'd on page 6)

North Dakota Passes Term Limits on Governor, Legislature

North Dakota is now the 16th state with legislative term limits and the 37th state to impose term limits on its governor.

North Dakota voters resoundingly approved



Jared Hendrix, Chair of North Dakota for Term Limits

Ballot Measure 1 with 63.29% voting Yes and 36.71% casting a No. Under the approved measure, an amendment to the North Dakota State Constitution will be added limiting the Governor to no more than two terms (8 years); and members of the State House and State Senate to a lifetime limit of two terms (8 years) in each chamber. The initiative was spearheaded by Jared Hendrix and grassroots activists from the ballot committee North Dakota for Term Limits.

It was an uphill battle against an entrenched incumbency that spared no expense taking term limits supporters to court and denying them their right to put the measure on the ballot by misapplying the law. Although a record number of North Dakotans signed petitions to get the measure on the ballot, it was opposed every step of the way by lobbyists and anti-term limits politicians.

(cont'd on page 7)



Term Limits Ballot Initiatives Always an Overwhelming Success Across the Country

Each year, term limits make its way to the ballot. Sometimes it is through a ballot initiative of the people to impose or strengthen term limits. Most of the time, it is initiated by politicians to gut term limits. It is clear that most term limits initiatives to strengthen or impose term limits pass overwhelmingly...unless politicians who fear job security mislead the public with deceitful ballot language which includes convoluting the proposal as a multi-issue proposal with unrelated topics.

2022 was no exception. This year, there were 25 term limits initiatives on the ballot. Of those, 21 improved term limits and only four we consider losses. Voters overwhelmingly approved implementing stricter term limits by as much as 83%. Where term limits lost, the margins were as close as 2%. We found term limits questions on the ballot in Alaska, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, North Dakota, Ohio, Tennessee, and Texas.

The most significant victory for term limits is that the citizens of North Dakota passed 8-year term limits on their Governor and each chamber of the state legislature. It was a hard-fought battle against a diabolical entrenched incumbency and lobbyists, that was ultimately resolved by the North Dakota Supreme Court ordering the secretary of state to stop his unilateral "misapplication of the law" against the citizens forcing him to place term limits on the general election ballot. North Dakota is the first state to adopt term limits on the legislature in nearly twenty-years.

In Michigan, state legislators hijacked the people's initiative to assure only the politician's "lifetime terms" amendment made the ballot. They deliberately deceived the voters into gutting the people's-initiated term limits with misleading ballot language devised by special interests. Despite that, the measure passed

only by roughly 10 percentage points, indicating that many voters caught on to the deception. Regardless, the politicians came out victorious and may now hold office for what amounts to a lifetime.

The biggest lesson to learn from watching the proposal process is that, if term limits are on the ballot, and not worded to deceive, the measure will win overwhelmingly. The untold story here is that many, many more cities and municipalities proposed term limits measures that never made it to the ballot. If it doesn't make the ballot, it can't be voted on and can't pass. Therefore, grassroots efforts need to focus on getting term limits on the ballot in the first place whether it be through a citizen's initiative or through convincing the legislature to make the proposal.

Unfortunately, citizens' initiatives, where permitted, require abundant resources and an organizing body. Whereas most anti-term limits proposals are repeatedly and easily placed on the ballot by self-serving politicians over and over again until they get the answer they want. A prime example of this is the term limits loss in Arlington, Texas. Preventing this inequity is part of the mission of U.S. Term Limits. That's why in North Dakota, Measure 1, includes a conflict-of-interest provision that prevents the legislature from referring any measure to the ballot to alter or repeal the term limits that the citizens just enacted. Only the citizens have the power to initiative changes to the term limits law.

For detailed race results, visit termlimits.com/2022-term-limits-ballot-initiatives.

The Mid-term Election was an Incumbent Tsunami...Again

For anyone who still believes "We have term limits, they're called elections," let me draw your attention to Exhibit A, the outcome of the midterm elections. 98% of the incumbents on the ballot won re-election. If that doesn't sink in, let's rephrase it. Just 2% of the challengers with an incumbent in the race emerged victorious. Just two percent! Let that sink in.

Let's also add the fact that Congress has just a 20% approval rating, which is much higher than its usual single digit percentage. With statistics like that, it is impossible to back up the statement that "elections equal term limits." It is simply untrue.

Don't believe me? Even the New York Times wrote about it. According to the article, entitled, "Despite Discontent, Midterm Voters Did Not Kick Out Incumbents," of the 365 House districts in which an incumbent faced re-election, only six Democrats lost their seats as of November 16th. On the Republican side, there were only three incumbents who lost their seats.

In the U.S. Senate, the numbers were even more dismal. At the time of this writing, of the races with

an incumbent and where a victor emerged, 100% of the current senators won re-election. 100%!

When 98% of the Congress gets re-elected when the people are crying for change, you have to say the system is broken and it's time for a change.

This is the best argument FOR term limits. Incumbents have so much advantage that they cruise back into office without having real approval by the voters. What this proves is that if you're an incumbent, you win automatically. You don't even have to try.

The only way we ever get to see new faces and bring in new ideas is if a seated politician runs for another office, resigns, retires, dies or goes to prison. That leaves an open seat, basically the only chance for a non-incumbent may be assured victory.

This is not an anomaly. Incumbent re-election rates always approach 95%. This election was no different and the results speak for themselves. They are proof positive that term limits is the only way to guarantee open seat opportunities at regular intervals.



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"Now is the time for a new generation of leaders. I think it's always good for our party to have new blood and new invigoration and enthusiasm and new ideas."

House Majority Steny Hoyer on his decision not to seek an elected leadership position in the 118th Congress

Harvard Law Professor Lawrence Lessig's Case for a National Amendment Proposal Convention



Larry Lessig is a law professor at Harvard and amongst the nation's top authorities on Article V of the U.S. Constitution. He recently appeared on the podcast, Opening Arguments, making the case for states to use this provision to reform Congress. To hear the entire interview, go to openargs.com and search for episode 268.

Larry Lessig: I don't want a constitutional convention, I want an Article V convention. Those are really different things. A constitutional convention, the sort of thing that gave us our Constitution or that happens around the world periodically in moments of revolution or fundamental transformation, is a body that has the power of, we call it constituent power, the power of the people. It can do whatever the hell it wants. What I'm talking about is a convention under Article V of our

constitution, which only has one power, and that's the power to propose amendments, which Article V says are only valid if they are ratified by three-fourths of the states. And so I think that's a really fundamental difference, big distinction, because I think many people get very anxious when they think about the idea of a constitutional convention, and I would be anxious about that too.

I don't think we as a nation are ready for something like... On September 15, 1787, two days before the constitution was to be proposed, George Mason stood up on the floor of the convention and he noticed that the mode of amending the constitution was exclusively Congress'. Only Congress could propose an amendment to the Constitution. And Mason said, "What if Congress is the problem?" There would be no amendments if Congress is the problem, no way to get around a corrupt Congress or a failed Congress.

And so that's why they created the Article V convention procedure, to give us a way around a corrupted Congress. And I think the practical reality of where we are in American history right now is exactly what George Mason was talking about. We have a corrupted, failed, broken institution at the core of our government. And the only way we can imagine fixing that is by using the device the framers gave us for going around Congress.

Michigan Voters Deceived by Lobbyists & Politicians

U.S. Term Limits condemns the special interests in Michigan who deceived voters in voting for Michigan Proposal 1 that severely weakened Michigan term limits for the state legislature. This scheme perpetrated by lobbyists and career politicians undoes the Michigan voter enacted constitutional term limits law passed in 1992. With a media campaign financed heavily by special interests, the unholy combination of lobbyists and career politicians convinced voters that voting yes on Michigan Proposal 1 was pro-term limits but it was not. In addition, they packaged it with a financial transparency law to assure voters would approve the measure.

"Career politicians and powerful lobbyists in Michigan combined to undo the will of Michigan voters," said Nick Tomboulides, Executive Director of U.S. Term Limits. "They deceived the voters saying this proposal was a reform measure. It is anything but reform and it definitely was not transparent. Its purpose is to undo term limits in Michigan and sadly they succeeded."

Thirty years ago, voters in Michigan approved one of the best term limits laws in the country. Lawmakers can serve three two-year terms in the state House and two four-year terms in the state Senate. That's a total of 14 years only if someone is elected to both chambers, which is mathematically unlikely. Most legislators serve six-years in the state house.

This year, the Michigan legislature proposed



and adopted, without debate or notice, a resolution to overturn the law – Michigan Proposal 1. Proposal 1 changes the number of years to 12 but allows legislators to serve all those years in a single chamber. This doubles the time that someone could spend in the state House of Representatives. Now a lawmaker can serve six two-year terms in the single chamber, for a total of twelve years. It also brings the total number of terms servable in the state Senate to three four-year terms. This Trojan horse scam guts Michigan's term limits.

Proposal 1 was pushed through the legislature with minimal notice. Its clear intent was to undo Michigan's term limits laws. Grassroots activists at Michigan Term Limits Defense Fund worked tirelessly to educate voters about the deceit of Proposal 1. This proves that the only way lobbyists and career politicians can gut term limits is by resorting to deceit.



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102 pledge signers in Congress



>860 pledge signers in state legislatures



82% of America

resolutions introduced in 17 states



Record Number of Pledge Signers Win (cont'd from page 1)



Congressmember-elect Eric Sorensen Illinois CD-17 terms and two (2) Senate terms and no longer limit. Term limits resolutions for the 118th Congress will be filed in January 2023.

But, Congress proposing the term limits amendment isn't the only option for success. Our multi-pronged approach also pursues a path through the state legislatures. Thirty-four states may announce their intentions to meet at a national convention to approve the language of the term limits proposal.

An integral component of our program is actively guiding term limits convention resolutions through the states. Accordingly, we ask candidates for state lawmaker positions to commit their support to our mission by signing the U.S. Term Lim-

its state convention pledge. These "whip counts" provide key business insights into which states are mostly likely to pass our legislation which informs our resource allocation decisions.

This past cycle, we had a commitment from 53% of the West Virginia state senate and 58% of the state house. The result, we passed our resolution through the legislature.

While several of the races are still undecided at the time of this printing, we are confident other states are approaching that level of commitment. This assures the likelihood of success in the 2023 legislative season.

To date, there are at least 867 elected state lawmakers, including top decision-makers, who have committed to support our term limits on Congress goals... and more and more are pledging their support each day.

We are working with leadership and sponsors in at least 17 key states to file our legislation as soon as possible. During the 2023 session, we will be shepherding the bills through the committee hearings and communicating frequently with grassroots supporters to contact their representatives asking them to vote favorably.

With your continued support, we are on the path to successfully passing the amendment that term limits the U.S. Congress.

Speaker Pelosi term limits herself as caucus leader after 20-years, opening the door to a new generation of leadership

The Democratic Party has passed over a lost generation of Gen Xers in favor of aging boomers and even silent generation lawmakers for their positions of leadership in the US Congress. Today, the average age of House Democrat leadership, where all the power is in the Congress, is 72 years old.

The three most important positions in the House are occupied by octogenarians. Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi is 82 years old. Majority leader, Steny Hoyer is 82 and Majority Whip, James Clyburn is 81.

There are many young Democrats being elected to the Congress who basically have no chance of getting to those positions of power for decades. They are locked out due to the entrenched incumbency.

Without term limits, the gerontocracy has always opposed any attempts to rectify the situation, but dissent from younger democrats has been bubbling to the surface for years. So much so that in 2019, Speaker Pelosi's was compelled to broker a deal with her caucus. To stay in power, she agreed to term limit herself as leader.

Well, Speaker Pelosi kept her word and announced that is stepping down from leadership. Not only that, but she also convinced Hoyer and



Speaker Pelosi upholds her promise to step down from Democratic Party leadership after twenty years.

Clyburn to follow suit opening the door to a new generation of leadership in the Democratic Party.

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries is favored to fill the vacancy left by Pelosi. According to a Newsweek article entitled "Average Age of Top House Democratic Leaders About to Drop By 30 Years," having a new generation of leadership means having people who are invested in the outcome of their own policies and face more accountability.

There is much excitement as a result of the open seats in Democratic leadership, We have been advocating for this invigoration and accountability for years. Term limits would make the Congress more reflective of the electorate in many more ways than age... and it would do so regularly.

ND Voters Pass Term Limits on Gov, Legislature (cont'd from page 1)

First, the Secretary of State disqualified numerous signatures to force the measure off the ballot. The State Supreme Court ultimately ruled the signatures valid and ordered the measure on the ballot. Then career politicians and lobbyists began a massive advertising campaign to defeat the measure while refusing to disclose where they were getting the money for the campaign. Despite this and opposition by members of the media, state voters overwhelmingly passed Ballot Measure 1.

"I want to congratulate Jared Hendrix and North Dakota for Term Limits in getting state term limits passed in North Dakota," said Nick Tom-

boulides, Executive Director of U.S. Term Limits. "They were opposed every step of the way by the powerful special interests in Bismarck but never backed down. This is truly an historic event because we now have another state legislature and governor with term limits."

"North Dakota voters demonstrated overwhelmingly that they are tired of political games and career politicians," concluded Tomboulides. "In passing Ballot Measure 1 they again took power back into their own hands and away from the special interests."

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 \[termlimits.com/volunteer/\]\(https://www.termlimits.com/volunteer/\)](https://www.termlimits.com/volunteer/)

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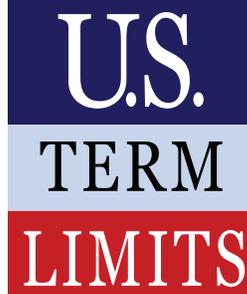
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Outrageous Congress!



Senator Mitch McConnell is set to be the longest serving senate leader in American history when the 118th Congress begins in January. As senior senator from Kentucky, he is currently in his seventh term, in a seat he has held since 1985 (while President Reagan was starting his second term.)

Up until this week, he had always enjoyed unanimous consensus from the Republican Caucus. In his first challenge in 15-years, Sen. Rick Scott launched a bid for the leadership role amidst a rift over disappointing Republican party results in the midterms and the Democrats retaining the power in the Senate..

The 80-year old minority leader defeated Sen. Scott 37-10.

Sign the petition at termlimits.com/petition