

No Uncertain Terms

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Sen. Cruz and Rep. Norman File Term Limits Resolutions

“Term limits are critical to fixing what’s wrong with Washington, D.C.,” says U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (Texas). “We don’t need a government run by a small group of special interests and lifelong, permanently entrenched politicians who prey upon the brokenness of Washington to govern in a manner that is totally unaccountable to the American people.”

Ardent champions of term limits, Sen. Cruz and Rep. Ralph Norman (S.C.) introduced an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to impose term limits on members of Congress. The amendment would limit U.S. Senators to two six-year terms and Members of the U.S. House to three two-year terms after the date of its enactment.



Rep. Norman and Senator Cruz Introduce HJR11 and SJR2 to term limit Congress

Says Rep. Norman on the issue, “Serving in the House or Senate should be a temporary privilege,

(cont’d on page 6)

Speaker McCarthy Promises a Vote on HJR11 in the House

The potential game changer of this year is the commitment from Speaker Kevin McCarthy that there will be a vote on the U.S. Term Limits

amendment proposal in 2023. The resolution has been introduced in the U.S. House as HJR11 by Rep. Ralph Norman of South Carolina.



U.S. Rep. Jared Golden (Maine) with USTL Legilsative Director Shanna Chmblee

It is Norman who secured McCarthy’s commitment as part and parcel of securing the votes necessary to win the House speakership. The California Republican eked out a victory after a historic 15 rounds of voting and intense negotiations. The vote for term limits was at the center of the concessions McCarthy made.

Additional leverage came from the thousands of emails and calls that our term limit supporters made into Congress and to McCarthy himself as part of our nationwide call-to-action. As a result, the US Term Limits amendment specifically became a major bargaining chip.

(cont’d on page 3)



President's Corner BY PHILIP BLUMEL

When Congress Voted on Term Limits for Itself

Senator Cruz has been a strong sponsor in the past and is again this year.

Now remember, it was Cruz who held the first hearings on congressional

term limits in the U.S. Senate in a generation. Recall that our own Nick Tomboulides, Executive Director of U.S. Term Limits, testified before that subcommittee. The video of Nick's testimony has gone viral on YouTube and has been viewed by millions.

The bills have been filed again this year and a vote is promised. But let's get real. Is it possible the U.S. House will pass congressional term limits on themselves?

Now, before we answer that question, let's look back to the heady days of the early 1990s when congressional term limits got several votes in the house. In the '90s, the House of Representatives voted 227 to 204 in favor of a Constitutional amendment limiting congressional terms. At 53%, that exceeds a simple majority.

In 1995 and 1997, "Yea" votes were cast by both Democrats and Republicans alike and include such familiar names as James Clyburn, Joe Scarborough, Dick Armey, John Boehner, Sonny Bono, Newt Gingrich, Lindsey Graham, John Kasich, Bill Pascrell, and John Sununu. Even Ray Thornton, of U.S. Term Limits v. Thornton voted in favor of term limits.

The reason that this bill didn't pass in the nineties is because a two-thirds vote is needed to pass a constitutional amendment.

However, the votes did prove that if lawmakers get enough pressure from citizens like you, mem-

bers of Congress will indeed vote to limit their own power.

Now keep in mind the US Term Limits movement today has something that we did not have on our side back in 1995...the Term Limits Convention project.

Why does that matter? Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution, if two thirds of the states call for an amendment writing convention, it shall be called.

Once this happens for the sole purpose of term limits, Congress will see the writing on the wall. They know term limits will imminently be codified into law. If it is going to happen anyway, they will want to dictate the terms themselves. They don't want to hand it off to state legislators in convention who would be looking for a promotion to Congress.

Under this enormous pressure, you can bet that the U.S. Congress will take action to term limit itself. It'll be in their self-interest to do so.

Today, there are already 133 votes by members of Congress who have signed the U.S. Term Limits pledge to cosponsor and vote for this particular bill. This puts our resolution in a much better position than it was in the term limits heyday of the 1990s. This is our strategy.

We need to keep the pressure up. Contact your federal lawmakers by taking action at termlimits.com/takeaction.

McCarthy Promises Term Limits Vote (cont'd from pg 1)

The impasse was historic as this is the first time in more than a century the House had multiple rounds of voting to elect its Speaker.

Technically, all the Speaker committed to do is bring the House resolution to the floor for a vote. It would need a two-thirds majority in both chambers of Congress.

We expect 133 cosponsors, representing both major political parties, to get on the bills in the House and the Senate. Currently, the Norman legislation has 70 cosponsors including lawmakers who were pro-McCarthy and people who are anti-McCarthy.

Also cosponsoring the resolutions are Rep. Jared Golden, a Democrat and Rep. Joe Wilson, a

long-time representative from South Carolina.

To remind all of the congressional pledge signers of their commitment, the digital team of U.S.

Term Limits texts, emails, and has supporters contact them to get on the resolutions and bring it to a vote.

In addition, Legislative Director Shanna Chamblee personally delivered acrylic versions of their pledges to the incumbents in their offices in Washington, D.C.

Momentum is on our side.

The last time there was a vote on term limits in Congress was in the 1990s. This important reform will finally get the attention the American people demand and the issue deserves. To hold McCarthy to his word, take action at termlimits.com/mccarthy.



Appointed Rookie Nebraska Senator Needs More Time

Robert Dover is a freshman state Senator in Nebraska's unicameral legislature appointed last year by the governor to fill a vacancy. Dover says that learning the ropes at the Capitol has been like drinking from a fire hose. I sure hope he's found the bathrooms, but have no fear.

This rookie has already overcome that lack of experience sponsoring a constitutional amendment which faster than a Nebraska minute has 40 of 49 state senators enthusiastically signed on.

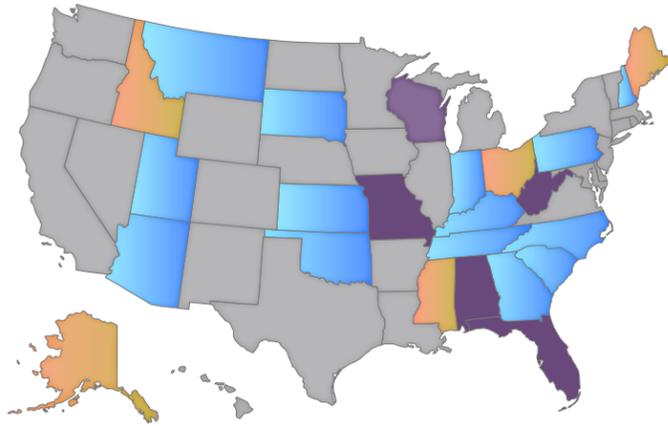
What has folks at the Capitol so excited? His amendment, LR-22-CA, would dramatically weaken their current term limits by giving legislators an extra term so they can serve 12 years before taking a break and not be limited to just eight.

Dover, the Nebraska Examiner informs, said he quickly learned how term limits were a bad idea after

talking with legislative veterans, state agency heads, and lobbyists. "Everyone I talked to said it was a horrible thing," he offered. "To a person they said term limits took away from the consistency at the Capitol," by which he means, the senator elaborated and as the Lincoln Journal Star reports, maintaining the right relationships between senators or interest groups to strike compromise.

Yes, indeed. The longer politicians stay in office, the more they do compromise with special interests. Dover said he understands term limits are very popular among the electorate, the Journal Star noted. Apparently he just doesn't get that those are the folks he is supposed to work for. The senator complained that Liberty Initiative Fund, my organization, is sending postcards to voters across the state to inform them about his bill calling our effort a waste of money. That tells me it's money well spent. This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob. (reprinted with permission)

PROGRESS UPDATE: USTL Resolutions to Term Limit Congress through the State Legislatures



USTL staff and volunteers are feverishly working in the state legislatures to pass our term limits convention resolutions to put term limits on Congress. It takes a coordinated effort to do this. Here is our current status:

- Alabama:** successfully passed the legislature.
- Alaska:** pending introduction.
- Arizona:** HCR2016 passed first house committee; SCR1016 still pending.
- Florida:** successfully passed the legislature.
- Georgia:** HR257 introduced in the house.
- Idaho:** pending introduction.
- Indiana:** SJR16 scheduled for first committee hearing.
- Kansas:** HCR5005 passed first house committee; it is

pending a house floor vote.

- Kentucky:** HJR8 is pending first committee hearing in the house.
- Maine:** pending introduction.
- Mississippi:** pending introduction.
- Missouri:** successfully passed the legislature.
- Montana:** HJR5 hearing is scheduled in the house.
- New Hampshire:** HCR4 passed first committee; pending floor vote.
- North Carolina:** HJR151 introduced in the house.
- Ohio:** pending introduction.
- Oklahoma:** SJR14/HJR1032 assigned to committees.
- Pennsylvania:** house resolution accepting cosponsors.
- South Carolina:** HCR3895/SCR481 introduced in the house and senate.
- South Dakota:** hearing scheduled in a house committee.
- Tennessee:** HJR5 introduced in the senate.
- Utah:** HJR009 introduced in the house.
- West Virginia:** successfully passed the legislature.
- Wisconsin:** successfully passed the legislature.

Brazen Politicians Seek to Gut Term Limits Immediately After Voters Establish Them

Baltimore

The headline reads, “Councilman Ryan Dorsey will introduce a charter amendment to repeal voter approved term limits.” What couldn’t fit in the title is that he brazenly did so immediately after the voters passed Question K just weeks earlier.

Voters overwhelmingly supported implementing term limits for leaders in Baltimore City along with independence and accountability on Election Day 2022.

Question K was approved by more than 70% of Baltimore voters. Under the plan, the mayor, comptroller, city council president and city council members are limited to two terms in a 12-year period.

The good thing is that when measures are voted on by the people, it nearly always means the people must also vote to remove or modify them. However, it is much easier for unhappy lawmakers to put questions to a vote of the people than it is for the citizens to do so, if even possible at all.

The earliest this initiative can be on the ballot is November 2024. As long as the ballot language is clear, and the sleazy politicians like Dorsey do not use deceptive tactics, we are sure Baltimore

will reject the gutting of term limits on elected officials in the city.

North Dakota

Coming off the heels of a a major term limits win in North Dakota in November, state lawmakers are already laying the ground to repeal a portion of the amendment that would make it easier for legislators to gut term limits.

North Dakota state House Concurrent Resolution No. 3019, seeks to remove the newly codified provision stating that modifying constitutional measures initiated by the voters may only be placed on the ballot for changes if initiated by the citizens. “Far too often, lawmakers seek to undo what the citizens fought hard to achieve,” says Scott Tillman, National Director for USTL. He added, “This is a blatant attempt to undo all the hard work, time and money it took for the citizens to pass the ballot measure. It is much easier for the legislature to put amendments on the ballot than it is for the people.”

What this resolution seeks to do is make it easier for lawmakers to deceive voters by allowing the state legislature to easily place amendments on the ballot.

133 pledge signers in Congress



>875 pledge signers in state legislatures



82% of America

resolutions introduced in 19 states



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“I have no love for Washington or the way that politics is done. As it is, I believe in term limits. And I have cosponsored a bill to put them in place.”

U.S. Rep. Jared Golden during a speech he presented at the Maine Democratic convention.

Cruz and Norman File Term Limits Resolution (cont'd from page 1)

not a career choice. With the allure of Washington, it becomes easy over time to lose sight of your constituents back at home. That's why a constitutional amendment is needed to term limit those who serve. "

Nick Tomboulides, executive director of U.S. Term Limits said, "Supermajorities of Republicans and Democrats favor term limits because they know Congress will never be fixed without it. We applaud Sen. Cruz for continuing to lead on this issue."

The U.S. Term Limits pledge was signed by 133 members of Congress. It reads, "I pledge that

as a member of Congress, I will cosponsor and vote for the U.S. Term Limits amendment of three (3) House terms and two (2) Senate terms and no longer limit."

The pledge is specific to cosponsoring and voting in favor of the term limits resolution. It is not a self-limit. While it would be ideal for members of Congress to voluntarily step down after six years, it is unrealistic to think everyone would do so without a term limits amendment to the Constitution. For institutional benefits of term limits, it must be applied to the whole body. They must be compulsory and applied equally.

Holly Robichaud Hosts Weekly Vlog: Term Limits Breaking News

Holly Robichaud manages the U.S. Term Limits' national state chair program. Her responsibilities include recruiting the best leaders to represent U.S. Term Limits in each state. She empowers them to advance our term limits resolutions forward in their respective states.



In addition, she works closely with David Johnson, a media strategist, to promote term limits activities in the press and to bring as much attention as possible to important term limits achievements. Some of the activities include consulting with chairs to optimize our nonpartisan term limits messaging, booking them on broadcasts, and helping them get their opinions published in local newspapers.

Robichaud and the state chairs work closely with regional and state directors from our field team to meet with lawmakers at the state level to educate them on the Article V amendment proposal process and our multi-pronged approach to implemented term limits on the U.S. Congress.

State chairs include notable figures from all sides of the political spectrum including former WWE wrestler and current mayor of Knox County

Tennessee, Glenn Jacobs, business owners, physicians, philanthropists, former military service members and several former state and federal elected officials. For a complete list of USTL state chairs, visit termlimits.com/state-chairs/.

To keep everyone informed, U.S. Term Limits launched a weekly video series hosted by Robichaud entitled "Term Limits Breaking News." The 5-7-minute short videos is available on USTL's youtube channel and facebook platforms. Find us on social media @ustermimits.

In the first episode, Ms. Robichaud discusses the importance of our pledge program, the progress we're making at the state level and the state chair program, significant events like "Term Limits Day" that occurs annually on February 27th. She also shares updates on the career politicians, not so affectionately dubbed "The Poster Child Politician of the Week." She also exposes corruption in a "Term Limits Hall of Shame" segment providing information on how supporters can help by taking specific actions.

Please like, follow, and share.

Pledge Breakers Earn Broken Promise Billboards

U.S. Term Limits holds pledge signers accountable. We monitor their votes and, particularly in Congress, we track who cosponsors our resolutions. We also track other term limits bills to see if signers sponsors a resolution that would be in conflict with ours.

While nearly every signer keeps their promise, this year we had two outright refuse to cosponsor the legislation and two additional members who took it a step further and cosponsored their own competing term limits bills.

Despite making a promise to their constituents, both U.S. Representatives Lori Trahan of Massachusetts and Young Kim of California have indicated they have no intention of cosponsoring our



term limits bill. Trahan cosponsored the appropriate resolution her first session after some coaxing. However, her second term, she has publicly stated she is breaking her pledge.

"The voters are uneducated and do not understand politics."
~ U.S. Rep. Claudia Tenney, NY

Taking the broken promise a step further

This session, two representatives not only did not cosponsor the bill for which they promised, they took breaking their pledge a step further and cosponsored competing resolutions, which is explicitly forbidden in the pledge.

"Claudia Tenney of New York and Derrick Van Orden of Wisconsin pledged to support our amendment of three terms in the House and two terms in the Senate **and no more**," said Philip Blumel, President of USTL. "Yet, once they were elected, they decided to ignore the promise they made to their constituents and actually sponsor bills with much longer terms. Voters are tired of politicians who make promises to get elected and then fail to keep them." Blumel continued, "Our resolution for six years in the House is based on

what Americans want. When asked if they preferred 12-years or 4-years as a second choice, they resoundingly opted for shorter terms...not longer."

According to Legislative Director Shanna Chamblee, Rep. Tenney claims that the "voters are uneducated and do not understand politics" in Tenney's response to the assertion that 82% of America wants term limits on Congress.

As a consequence, all four representatives have earned a broken promise billboard in their districts. The billboards are part of a broader campaign aimed at informing the public where candidates and lawmakers stand on term limits for Congress. USTL remains committed to holding politicians accountable for their promises and ensuring that the voices of term limits supporters are heard.

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Outrageous Congress!

Finally, Sen. Dianne Feinstein has announced she will retire when her term ends in 2025. For years, her cognitive decline has been at issue prompting speculation that she was not fit for the rigors of the job.

There has been so much confusion, Feinstein herself stated she hadn't made a retirement decision even though her staff had already issued her statement of her intent to vacate the California U.S. Senate seat.

Elected to the seat in 1992, Feinstein was the first woman senator from California and has been the longest serving from the Golden State. When she retires in 2024, she will be 90 years old.

Sign the petition at termlimits.com/petition