

No Uncertain Terms

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Oklahoma Passes Term Limits Convention Resolution

A momentous victory took place in the Oklahoma state legislature this April marking a significant step forward in the fight against careerism in Washington, D.C. The state senate passed House Joint Resolution 1032, a measure that had gained approval from the state house earlier in the session. With this success, Oklahoma joins the growing list of states that have officially applied for an amendment proposing convention under Article V of the U.S. Constitution, focused solely on the issue of congressional term limits.



Oklahoma State Capitol

The vote on HJR1032 in the Oklahoma Senate was decisive, with 31 yeas and 11 nays. The application is now officially heading to Congress, where it will be counted towards the 34 state ap-

plications required to call a term limits convention.

HJR1032 received bipartisan support and
(cont'd on page 6)

United for Term Limits: Rep. Golden and Sen. Bennett

In a political climate where so many politicians refuse to agree with those from the opposite side of the aisle, USTL is proud that term limits on Congress a nonpartisan issue upon which lawmakers from both sides have united. In April, U.S. Representative Jared Golden and Maine State Senator Rick Bennett joined forces to film a round table discussion moderated by North Region Director Kenn Quinn. The session was captured in a series of videos, promoted as 'United for Term

Limits' and can be found on facebook, twitter, youtube, and on the USTL web site.

Both lawmakers agree on the urgent need for congressional term limits and the best path forward is through the states applying pressure on Congress to pass its own amendment proposal. Both methods, proposing the amendment through the states and through the Congress, are powers delegated by Article V of the U.S. Constitution.

During the conversation both Golden and Bennett discuss that "institutional knowledge" gained from being a professional politician is not always a good thing and can actually be quite detrimental.

According to Rep. Golden, the current professional core of politicians is posturing over the debt ceiling jeopardizing the creditworthiness of



U.S. Rep. Jared Golden and Maine State Senator Rick Bennett show bipartisan support for congressional term limits.

(cont'd on page 7)



President's Corner BY PHILIP BLUMEL

8-Year Term Limits Signed into Law in Florida

U.S. Term Limits applauds Florida Governor Ron DeSantis for signing the bill that enforces eight-year term limits for school board members. This momentous achievement is a result of USTL's tireless advocacy for term limits for members of school boards, which began in 2017. Our efforts included active participation in town hall meetings, engagement with the Florida State Supreme Court, involvement in the Constitution Revision Commission, and multiple legislative sessions. The statute will have a significant impact as it applies to 358 Florida school board members across 69 districts.

USTL played a crucial role in initiating and driving the advocacy for this critical reform. We organized a group of passionate activists who testified in Tallahassee in favor of this bill. Additionally, we actively attended town halls during the Constitutional Revision Commission battle over the past few years to champion this cause.

The bills in support of term limits for school board members were sponsored by Florida State Senator Blaise Ingoglia and House Representative Alex Rizo. Their efforts led to a resounding victory in both the state senate, with a vote of 30-7, and the state house, with a triumphant margin of 79-29. Term limits for school board members in Florida are particularly crucial due to the generous compensation received by board members, which amounts to a full-time salary for part-time posi-

tions. Similar to members of Congress, incumbent members of school boards often enjoy the advantage of strong connections and campaign contributions, making it extremely challenging to unseat them.

Nick Tomboulides, Executive Director of U.S. Term Limits, views term limits for school board members as a unifying issue in Florida that transcends party lines. He remarked, "With the passage of this bill, I am confident this proposal will bring new energy and ideas to school boards that too often suffer from the same untamed incumbency that paralyzes Congress."

Tomboulides further explained the importance of term limits in the context of school districts, highlighting that the responsibilities entrusted to boards are too vital to be influenced by politics. He emphasized, "When deciding how to direct the \$21 billion in funds they receive, board members should be asking 'how will this improve our schools?' rather than 'how will this benefit me personally?'"

By implementing term limits for school board members, we can ensure that the needs of students and their communities take precedence, leading to more effective, efficient, and accountable school board governance.

Term Limits Rescission Emergency in Alabama

Now that the term limits convention resolution has passed in six states, career politicians have declared war in Alabama on their constituents.

Although frustrating, it is a sign of progress. As the saying goes, first they ignored us, then they rolled their eyes and predicted we wouldn't get anywhere. But now, as each year sees more states pass official applications for an Article V amendment proposal convention limited to the subject of congressional term limits, career politicians are looking to undo the will of the people who elected them.

Alabama was one of the first states to pass the term limits convention application. But this has not stopped a group of Alabama legislators who have proposed HJR104 and SJR57, which, if

passed, would reverse the previous resolution in favor of congressional term limits.

U.S. Term Limits condemns these resolutions and the political special interests behind them.

If passed, this will set the term limits movement back significantly and continue to allow politicians to have endless careers as unbeatable incumbents with automatic financial support. Dedicated citizens have worked hard tirelessly contacting their lawmakers, writing letters, testifying in front of the legislature, and informing their neighbors.



EDITOR'S UPDATE: The session has ended in Alabama for this year. However, we encourage our supporters to contact their state lawmakers to oppose this rescission effort to prevent it from returning in the upcoming session. Please take action at termlimits.com/takeaction.

Powerhouse Leads the Term Limits Effort in New Hampshire

USTL is proud to announce that former state senate president, Chuck Morse is leading the term limits on Congress fight in New Hampshire.

During a public press conference on May 23, Morse announced that as state chair, he will work tirelessly to ensure that the Granite state adopts a congressional term limits resolution. The event was organized by U.S. Term Limits.

Rep. Scott Wallace of Rockingham District 8, who is also the sponsor of the USTL resolution and Vice Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, introduced Morse.

Morse stated, "New Hampshire attracts volunteer lawmakers who live under the same laws

that they pass. Our representatives are accountable to us, and we hold them to high standards of public service. It's time to bring the same level of accountability to our nation's capital. That's why I've decided to chair the U.S. Term Limits effort

here in New Hampshire. We need to send a clear message to our representatives in Washington DC that we expect them to serve the people, not their own interests."



A champion of term limits, Morse immediately hit the ground running, working with members of the state legislature and leveraging his intimate knowledge and personal connections to help pass the term limits on Congress amendment through the state legislature.

Presidential Candidates Sign Term Limits Pledge

Presidential candidates are making Congressional term limits a cornerstone of their candidate platform. Nikki Haley, Republican Presidential candidate and former South Carolina Governor and United Nations Ambassador, has officially signed the U.S. Term Limits pledge as part of her campaign. This significant commitment highlights her dedication to supporting the passage of the U.S. Term Limits amendment, which proposes three (3) House terms and two (2) Senate terms as the limit for members of Congress. Furthermore, she pledges to work towards securing state ratification of this crucial amendment to the United States Constitution. Haley's decision to sign the pledge sets her apart as the first 2024 presidential candidate, regardless of party affiliation, to take this bold step. It's evident that congressional term limits form a key platform issue for her presidential campaign.

The U.S. Term Limits constitutional amendment has been introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senator Ted Cruz (SJR 2) and in the U.S. House by Representative Ralph Norman (HJR 11). The commitment to the cause is further underscored by House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's promise to hold a vote on HJR 11 during this Congress. This demonstrates the growing momentum and support for term limits in the legislative arena.

Reflecting on the significance of this movement, Nikki Haley emphasizes, "Our Founding Fathers did not want people to make careers out of

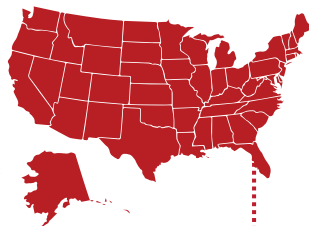


Ambassador Haley advocates for term limits on Congress

government. Yet our current D.C. politicians have made a lucrative career of long-term service, with some members of Congress spending the majority of their lives in office. The dysfunction that arises from this situation is evident and calls for immediate action. We can and must do better, which is why I am fully committed to supporting the passage of the U.S. Term Limits amendment once I am in the White House."

Entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy has also signed the US Term Limits Presidential Pledge, demonstrating his support for term limits on Congress. We anticipate the signatures of term limits champions Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida and Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, who have recently entered the Presidential race. With their strong track records and commitment to the cause, it is only a matter of time before they too join the ranks of presidential pledge signatories.

134 pledge signers in Congress



>908
pledge signers
in state legislatures



82%
of America

resolutions
introduced in **19**
states



USTL Welcomes Newest Dedicated & Determined State Chairs

U.S. Term Limits is proud to introduce Elizabeth Mercedes Krause and Sharon Jackson as the new state chairs for Nevada and Alaska, respectively. Their voluntary commitment to serving as state chairs highlights their deep understanding of the necessity for term limits at the federal level, as well as the overwhelming support for congressional term limits among Americans across the political spectrum. With their unwavering dedication, they will tirelessly work towards the adoption of the term limits resolution in their states.

Elizabeth Mercedes Krause, a native of Las Vegas, brings a wealth of experience to her role. She obtained a bachelor's degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 2001, and later pursued further education at Montana State University, Bozeman. In 2016, she earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Concordia University. Prior to her involvement with U.S. Term Limits, Krause served as a dedicated public-school teacher and is a proud mother of three.

Sharon Jackson, hailing from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has a remarkable background in public

service. She proudly served in the United States Army, which brought her to Alaska in 1983. After completing her active-duty tour, Jackson enrolled in Charter College and became a Certified Electronic Technician, a role she fulfilled for the next 13 years. From 2019 to 2021, she had the honor of representing Chugiak-Eagle River-JBER, District 13, in the Alaska State House of Representatives.



Elizabeth Mercedes Krause and Rep. Sharon Jackson

In addition to her new position as state chair, Jackson actively serves on the Alaska Workforce Development Board and Serve Alaska. She is also an advisor on various national boards, including Be Better Medicine Media, Ascend Fund, and Veterans in Pain.

Elizabeth Mercedes Krause and Sharon Jackson's commitment to the cause of congressional term limits is a testament to their passion for promoting effective and accountable governance. U.S. Term Limits is grateful for their valuable contributions and looks forward to the positive impact they will make in Nevada and Alaska. Together, we will continue to advocate for the vital reforms needed to ensure a government that truly represents the will of the people.

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*“Serving in Congress has
become for many, a lucrative
lifelong job rather than a
public service. Term limits will
help end career politicians and
make Congress work better for
all Americans.”*

*Nevada State Co-chair for
U.S. Term Limits Elizabeth
Mercedes Krause*

Oklahoma Passes Term Limits on Congress Resolution (cont'd from page 1)

passed easily through both chambers of the Oklahoma state legislature.

This achievement was made possible thanks to the sponsorship of Oklahoma State Senator Micheal Bergstrom and state house Representative Jon Echols, who worked tirelessly to see this resolution through.

This success is part of a larger, nonpartisan movement led by U.S. Term Limits, dedicated to upholding the principles of a citizen legislature and combating the dominance of career politicians in our nation's capital.

David Hill, Oklahoma State Chair, expressed his elation, stating, "I am so thrilled that Oklahoma has joined the growing list of states supporting congressional term limits. This vote shows that Oklahoma is committed to ending the stranglehold of federal career politicians who put their politics ahead of we the people."

Chris Keener, the Oklahoma State Director of U.S. Term Limits, was integral in shepherding

the resolutions through the state. He called it an amazing accomplishment considering it was the first time USTL filed the resolution in the Sooner state.

Senator Micheal Bergstrom, the sponsor in the upper chamber, acknowledged the significance of this achievement, saying, "With the passage of the resolution, Oklahoma takes the lead in bringing term limits to the U.S. Congress. The vast majority of Oklahomans support term limits so that entrenched power brokers can be sent packing. It's a great pleasure to have helped move this forward."

Article V of the U.S. Constitution grants states the authority to impose term limits on Congress without requiring congressional approval. To call a term limits amendment convention, a total of 34 states must pass similar resolutions. Once a term limits amendment is proposed, it must be ratified by 38 states to be added to the U.S. Constitution. This process empowers the states to bypass Congress entirely, ensuring a truly grassroots-driven effort.

Philip Blumel, the President of U.S. Term Limits, emphasized the widespread support for term limits, stating, "Eighty-two percent of Americans support term limits on Congress, including huge majorities of Democrats, Republicans, and independents. This is a rare, truly nonpartisan issue with national appeal."

Blumel commended Senator Bergstrom and Representative Echols for their integral role in this victory, acknowledging that their efforts have placed Oklahoma at the forefront of states calling for term limits on Congress. "I want to give special thanks to Chris Keener and the rest of the Term Limits team that made this happen. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you."



Sponsor Rep. Jon Echols with Chris Keener, Oklahoma State Director for U.S. Term Limits

United for Term Limits (cont'd from page 1)

the nation. All the combined institutional knowledge of our current Congress is based upon years of learned experiences, battles past fought and how to go about winning for the party but not for the benefit of the nation. It's about the Dems beating the Republicans, and the Republicans beating the Dems. "There's all kinds of institutional knowledge about how to posture and jockey for position in order to get the big win and crush the other side," says Golden. "Yet, there's very little conversation about what's in the best interest of the country."

Bennett added, "When you talk about institutional knowledge, it often boils down to knowledge of the process. Well, the process is there to make the lawmaker effective. I'm not there to serve a process, I'm there to serve the people. And if the process is getting in the way of that, we need to change the process."

He continued, "Institutional knowledge is often an excuse for keeping things the same, rather than changing them critically."

Real world experience such as serving on a planning board in a town, or running a business, or if you're a teacher, a doctor, or a nurse, is the



U.S. Rep. Jared Golden and State Senator Rick Bennett of Maine

best kind to inform policymaking -- not how many years you have been in a particular office.

Both leaders highlighted the drawbacks from the lack of term limits such as a concentration of power among careerists, the need for fresh perspectives through broader representation from diverse backgrounds, the value of citizens from all walks of life to play an active role in resolving the current issues facing the nation. Having term limits shifts the focus from personal gain to the broader needs of voters. Both agree that the states must band together to put pressure on Congress by passing resolutions to propose a term limits amendment.

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Outrageous Congress!



Work in the senate judiciary committee had come to a screeching halt until the return of Sen. Dianne Feinstein. After more than a two-month absence, the U.S. Senator from California, aged 89, returned to the work.

The occasion was widely reported in the media. Feinstein, confined to a wheelchair, appears to have suffered partial paralysis and mental confusion. Insiders claim that she was unsure of where she was and insisted that she had not been absent from her duties despite being hospitalized. In fact, she had forgotten that she previously announced her upcoming retirement.

Even lawmakers from her own party called for her resignation. While we commend Sen. Feinstein for her many accomplishments, term limits advocates agree that limiting the number of terms an individual can serve helps mitigate the deleterious issues attributed to this Congress being oldest Congress in history.