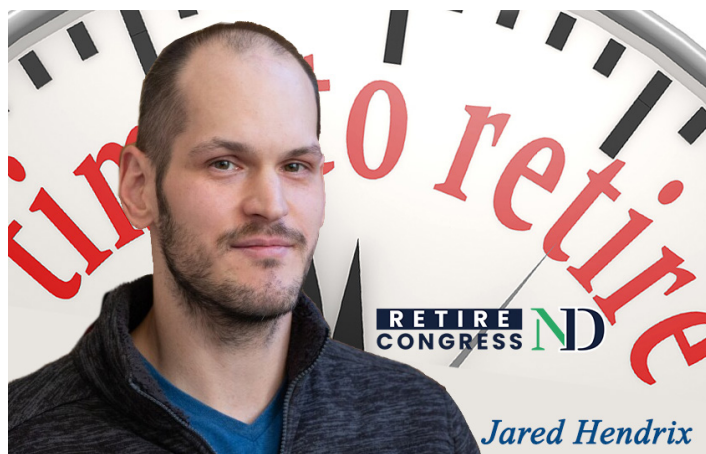


No Uncertain Terms

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TERM LIMITS MOVEMENT • JUL-SEPT 2023 • VOLUME 31 • No. 3

Retire Congress North Dakota Effort Seeks Age Limits

A new political action committee, Retire Congress North Dakota (RCND), is busy collecting the 31,164 signatures required for a ballot initiative in North Dakota. The measure, if approved in 2024, would set a maximum of 80 years on lawmakers and states no person may be elected or appointed to serve a term or a portion of a term in the U.S. Senate or the U.S. House of Representatives if that person would attain 81 years of age by December 31st of the year immediately preceding the end of the term. for congressional candidates running in the Peace Garden state. National and in-state polling indicate there is strong support for congressional age limits. “Even at 70, there is majority support, but that support is overwhelming at age 80,” said Jared Hendrix, chair of RCND.



Jared Hendrix, Chair of Retire Congress North Dakota

Hendrix also chaired the committee that successfully passed term limits on the North Dakota

(cont'd on page 6)

McCarthy and Jordan Scheme to Gut Our Term Limits Resolution!

HJR 11 is the USTL resolution proposing an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would limit the number of terms a person may serve in Congress, was introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Ralph Norman.



Rep. Jim Jordan is concocting an alternate term limit plan.

A total of 112 House members have signed the U.S. Term Limits pledge, committing to support term limits of three terms for the House and two terms for the Senate.

However, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and Judiciary Committee Chair Jim Jordan plan to gut HJR 11, allowing career politicians to serve for up to 24 years. This would defeat the point of term limits, maintaining the seniority system and making it difficult for new voices to be heard.

This is a clear attempt to water down term limits and keep the power in the hands of the same old special interests. That is why they are trying to kill HJR11 and replace it with a sham term limits bill.

We are doing everything within our power to hold firm to our original terms and demand that

(cont'd on page 7)



President's Corner BY PHILIP BLUMEL

Bipartisan Incapacitation

One day apart, Republican senator Mitch McConnell and Democratic senator Dianne Feinstein, demonstrated how the lack of term limits paralyzes the U.S. Congress.

Twice, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, age 81, was escorted out of a press conference after he suddenly stopped talking, appeared to freeze, and went silent for half a minute. These were not McConnell's first senior moments. He has been falling intermittently, even resulting in a prolonged absence and hospitalization.

Contemporaneously, Senator Dianne Feinstein was caught on camera visibly confused despite colleagues coaching her through her committee vote.

These incidents have led to calls for term limits from all over the political landscape. The current Senate is the oldest in history with a median age of 65. In the house, the median age has been 58 for the past decade, higher than in any year before this period. At 81, McConnell is only the fourth-oldest senator and one of more than two dozen members who come from the silent generation. Born between the '20s and the end of World War II. 90-year-old Sen. Feinstein of California is the oldest senator. It was reported last week that she has relinquished power of attorney, meaning personal decision making, to her 66-year-old daughter.

Meanwhile, she continues to serve on important committees, making decisions of international significance...yet we were told that decision was a "personal matter."

How does this happen? Well, first, let's point out what doesn't happen. Voters do not look at Feinstein and McConnell and say to themselves, "Oh, here are the best candidates that our states offer. And among these fine other choices on the ballot, I'm happy to cast my vote for this incumbent senator who has been serving in the interest of our state and country for the last 50 years."

When politicians tell you, "We already have term limits, they're called elections" this is the tale they are spinning. Do you realize that in the 2022 elections, every senator up for reelection running for their own

seat was reelected -- every single one. And yet the latest approval ratings of the U.S. Senate from June of this year shows 20% have a favorable opinion of this body.

No, elections are not enough. They have elections in Cuba held at the municipal, provincial, and national levels. Do you know what percentage of incumbents running for their own seat won in the last national election for assembly? You guessed it. 100%. Just like the US Senate. We don't just need elections, we need competitive elections. Term limits provides that.

Open Seats Bring Many Choices, Many Pledge Signers.

There's a fallacy that has been perpetuated by the naysayers of congressional term limits for years. They will tell you that term limits on Congress will limit choice. Let's debunk that myth.

The special primary election for Rhode Island's 1st Congressional District is scheduled for September 5. The open seat was left vacant when the incumbent resigned partially through his term. There are 14 candidates in the race with 7 of those candidates having signed the pledge to support USTL's amendment proposal. Democratic candidates John Goncalves, Stephanie Beauté, Allen Waters, Aaron Regunberg, Sabina Matos, Gabe Amo, and Republican candidate Gerry Leonard have all signed the pledge.

Each of these candidates has pledged that as a member of Congress they 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.

**Editor's note: two pledge signers, Gabe Amo and Gerry Leonard, have won their primary races.*

USTL President Philip Blumel commented on their pledges saying, "This overwhelming support of term limits shows that there are individuals, on both sides of the aisle, who are willing to put self-interest aside to follow the will of the people. America needs a Congress that will be served by citizen legislators, not career politicians."

Initially, 30 individuals filed to reach for the brass ring, but several had withdrawn. This left 14 candidates in the race, 50% of whom have pledged their support for term limits on Congress.

Open seats equals open doors for fresh new faces in races. Term limits will help put power in the hands of the American people and not solely in the hands of a few individuals who insist on staying in office long after their fresh ideas have gone stale and, in some instances, their mental capacities have diminished.

Thank you to the seven candidates for putting their self-interest aside and stepping up to serve their community as citizen legislators.

Term Limits Resolution Filed in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania State Representative Jared Solomon (District 202), a Democrat, introduced two resolutions calling for a national convention to propose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would establish term limits for members of Congress and a separate call for a convention for U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) justices.

"We are grateful to Rep. Solomon for his leadership in the fight for term limits," said U.S. Term Limits President Philip Blumel. "His resolutions are a significant step forward in the effort to limit the terms of our elected officials and make our government more responsive to the people."

Solomon's resolutions are the first time that a state legislator has introduced separate resolutions for term limits for Congress and for SCOTUS.

"Term limits are a common-sense reform that

would make our government more representative and less corrupt," said Solomon. "I am proud to introduce these resolutions and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting term limits."



Boots on the ground... taking the mission to the people

Young Americans for Liberty Conference

This summer, members of USTL attended various conferences throughout the country. In Florida, team members participated in an American Legislative Council (ALEC) and a Young Americans for Liberty (YAL) conference. Several featured conference speakers publicly endorsed term limits on Congress.

As a sponsor of the events, U.S. Term Limits staffers were able to meet with state lawmakers and candidates and answer their questions concerning the term limits movement. More than 30 lawmakers and candidates signed the term limits pledge.

In addition, hundreds of attendees signed the term limits petition and learned more about the organization and how to support the movement.



National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

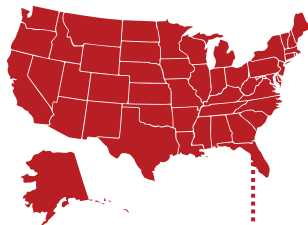
National Conference of State Legislatures held their annual gathering in Indianapolis, Indiana. The event gathers state legislators from across the country to participate in panels and workshops on a variety of topics.

As in Florida, team members at the NCSL conference were able to interact with state legislators and provide information to them on how they can work in their own state towards a constitutional amendment for congressional term limits.

We know first hand how difficult it can be to meet with lawmakers. Events like these bring hundreds of legislators to one place and provide an informal opportunity for USTL team members to meet with legislators to educate and encourage their support. It's also important to confirm buy-in from those who have already pledge support.



134 pledge signers in Congress



>908 pledge signers in state legislatures



82% of America

resolutions introduced in **19** states



Constantin Querard Named USTL Western Regional Director

Constantin Querard “CQ” has been named Western Region Director for U.S. Term Limits. Querard has been active in politics for several decades, working on campaigns for candidates from the state legislative level to the U.S. Senate in a variety of states. He holds an M.B.A. from Thunderbird School of Global Management.

In 2013, Campaigns & Elections Magazine named CQ one of Arizona’s Top 5 GOP influencers. In 2015, he was named Best Campaign Consultant by the Arizona Capitol Times.

“We are thrilled to have CQ join our team,” said US Term Limits President Philip Blummel. “He has a wealth of experience in politics and a deep understanding of the issue of term limits. We are confident that he will be a great asset to our organization.”

Querard is a native of Arizona and is fluent in French and Russian. He is married with three children.

“I am excited to join USTL to help pass term

limits for Congress,” said Querard. “I believe that term limits are essential to restoring the balance of power in Washington and making our government more responsive to the people.”



USTL welcomes CQ to the leadership team

Querard will be responsible for overseeing U.S. Term Limits’ efforts in the Western states. He will work with state and local leaders to build support for term limits and to help pass term limits measures at the ballot box.

“I am committed to working with all stakeholders to make sure that term limits are a reality,” said Querard. “I believe that term limits are the best way to break the cycle of corruption and special interest influence in Washington.”

“I am confident that with CQ’s leadership, we will be able to pass term limits for Congress in the Western states,” said Blummel. “CQ is a proven leader and a tireless advocate for term limits. He is the perfect person to lead our efforts in the West.”

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*“A constitutional
amendment is needed.”*

~Elon Musk

*(in response to Minority
Speaker Mitch McConnell
“freezing” in front of cameras
for 19-seconds)*

Retire Congress ND Effort Seeks Age Limits (cont'd from page 1)

state legislature and governor. “We believe that there should be a retirement age for Congress,” said Hendrix. “The median age for retirement of all Americans is 64. Members of Congress should not be exempt from this.” Hendrix continued, “We have a strong team of volunteers and activists

working on this, and we believe that the people of North Dakota will support this common-sense measure.”

For more information visit retirecongressnorthdakota.com.

Getting POTUS Candidates Term Limits Stance on the Record

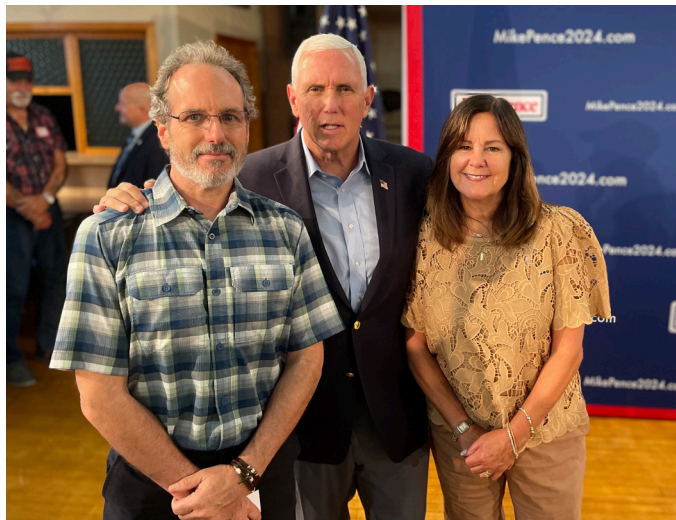
Kenn Quinn, Regional Director for U.S. Term Limits, religiously attends presidential candidate rallies and town halls to get each candidate on record as to their stand on congressional term limits. Equipped with the U.S. Term Limits Presidential Pledge and a cellphone, he records each candidate's response to help educate supporters on where they stand on term limits for Congress.

As the 2023 presidential debates are upon us, only two of the 13 Republican candidates running have pledged that they will support congressional term limits. Both former U.N. Ambassador and Governor Nikki Haley and tech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy have signed the U.S. Term Limits Presidential Pledge, which reads:

“I pledge that as President of the United States, I will champion congressional passage and state ratification of an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would set a (2) two term limit on service in the U.S. Senate and a (3) three term limit on service in the U.S. House.”

Presidential candidate Chris Christie has been most vocal in his support but has not signed the pledge. Sen. Tim Scott is a congressional pledge

signer and a cosponsor of SJR2, the term limit resolution proposed in the U.S. Senate but has not yet signed the POTUS pledge.



USTL's Quinn with Pence who has declined to sign the pledge.

Gov. Ron DeSantis has also been an ardent term limits supporter both while governor of Florida and during his time in Congress when he cosponsored the USTL resolution.

Gov. Doug Burgum recently came out in support saying that he believes term limits are “a good thing.” However, he did claim to have some influence over passing term limits on the North Dakota legislature and the Governor's office last year but skeptics have called him out saying he did nothing of the kind.

The support for term limits among POTUS candidates is a sign that the issue is a hot topic among voters. Recent polls find that 82% of Americans support term limits for members of Congress.

It is no surprise, that President Biden, a career politician, does not support term limits on Congress. While Mike Pence says he supports a 12-year limit, he did not sign the pledge. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. dodged Quinn on several occasions.

It is an important that we educate supporters about who is for and who is against term limits.

McCarthy and Jordan Scheme (cont'd from page 1)

McCarthy and Jordan keep their promise to hold an up or down vote on HJR11, as it was originally drafted, with no amendments.

**Editors note: It is rumored that HJR11 will be heard in front of the Judiciary subcommittee on the Constitution on Tuesday, September 19th as part of the negotiations to avoid a government*

shutdown. Please contact the members committee by going to termlimits.com/hjr11. Call, email, and tweet your representatives. This is the first vote since 1997 and we need to pass the House. We have the momentum and the support of the American people on our side. We will do this.

New Univ. of Maryland Poll: 83% Support Term Limits

The University of Maryland's Program for Public Consultation (PPC) conducted a survey with 2,700 registered voters to find out what Americans think about term limits for members of Congress. The results are loud and clear - 83% of voters overwhelmingly support term limits, including 86% of Republicans, 80% of Democrats, and 84% of independents.

Survey Overview

Efforts to establish term limits on members of Congress have been undertaken for nearly a century, with the first congressional vote taking place in 1945. Nearly half of the states have term limits on their own congressional delegation laws on their books. However, the Supreme Court struck them down in the U.S. Term Limits v. Thornton decision. The court ruled that states may not impose restrictions greater than the qualifications clause of the U.S. Constitution and that an amendment is needed to establish term limits on federal lawmakers. A proposal requires support from two thirds of Congress or two thirds of states after which ratification requires 3/4 approval of the bodies in order to become codified into law. The last time there was a vote on a term limits proposal in Congress was in 1995.

Recently, the issue has been given new life due to the House's speakership negotiations in which Speaker McCarthy guaranteed a vote on congressional term limits.

Assessment

Arguments in favor of term limits included accumulated incumbent advantage -- they have more name recognition and are able to raise much more money. In fact, incumbents win re-election more than 90 percent of the time. There may be much better candidates out there who never get a chance because the odds are stacked against them.

Because incumbents are so secure, they don't need to be attentive to their constituents and increasingly lose touch with them. If we were to have term limits, we would have more open-seat races in which the candidates would have to earn the votes of the people, including paying attention to their views.



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Inside No Uncertain Terms...

- Retire Congress North Dakota Effort Seeks Age Limits ...1**
- McCarthy and Jordan Scheme to Gut Term Limits Resolution! ...1**
- President's Corner: Bipartisan Incapacitation...2**
- Open Seats Bring Many Choices, Many Pledge Signers...3**
- Term Limits Resolution Filed in Pennsylvania..3**
- Boots on the Ground; Taking the Message to the People...4**
- Constantin Querard Named USTL Western Regional Director ...5**
- Where do the Presidential Candidates Stand on Term Limits? ...6**
- New Poll: 83% Support Term Limits for Congress and their top reasons...7**
- Outrageous Congress ...8**



Outrageous Congress! Mitch McConnell Refuses to Step Down After “Freezes”



Senator Mitch McConnell, elected in 1985, is the longest-serving senate Republican leader in the history of the United States.

Lately, McConnell's health has been a cause for concern. He was out of the senate for almost six weeks earlier this year after falling and hitting his head at a dinner event. He was hospitalized for several days and his office later claimed he suffered a concussion and a fractured rib. Most recently, he suffered not one but two cognitive freezes in front of cameras for nearly half a minute. At what point do his handlers urge him to retire?

It's time for Mitch McConnell to step aside and let a new generation of leaders take over. He's an outrageous relic from the past who should have been term limited long ago. In a recent RealClear Politics poll, 73% of likely voters want to “ditch Mitch.”