

No Uncertain Terms

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TERM LIMITS MOVEMENT • OCT. - DEC. 2023 • VOLUME 31 • No. 4

We finally got our term limits vote in Congress

For the first time in decades, the U.S. House held a vote to propose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to include congressional term limits. Unsurprisingly, it failed.

Members opposed to the resolution seized the opportunity to get their best sound bites on the record. Rep. Harriet Hageman of Wyoming criticized the notion of term limits, expressing her displeasure for what she considers to be the “true bureaucrats” in Washington, the unelected employees of the administrative branch. According to Hageman, federal employees should be term limited, not members of Congress.



Speaker Johnson chaired the subcommittee that advanced HJR11.

The defeat of HJR11 in the House Judiciary Committee came as no surprise. However, the resolution failed to pass by a mere two votes, with 17 in favor and 19 opposed and three term limits pledge signers absent from the vote.

The hearing was indeed the result of pressure on then Speaker McCarthy and Judiciary chair Jim Jordan to hold a vote. The rejection by the committee reaffirms that Congress will not propose this amendment without pressure from the states. That is why resolutions filed in the U.S. House and Senate are only one tactic of a multi-pronged

(cont'd on page 6)



Steps to Add Term Limits to the Constitution

01 PROPOSAL 2/3 of the

State Legislatures
& a majority vote at
a Term Limits
Convention

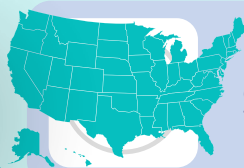
OR

U.S. House
& Senate

How we bypass
Congress for
term limits.



02 RATIFICATION 3/4 of the



State Legislatures

OR



Delegates at
State Convention

Find out more at termlimits.com



President's Corner BY PHILIP BLUMEL

Lessons from the term limits vote in Congress: a reinvigorated focus on the state convention

The vote on HJR11 in the House Judiciary Committee was a significant step in our term limits movement. Predictably, the outcome itself didn't favor us, but it provided valuable insight and reignited our commitment to passing term limits convention resolutions in the states.

We observed the emergence of a group we've dubbed the "Nasty 19" – politicians who vehemently opposed term limits for Congress. These representatives came from both sides of the aisle and seemed determined to safeguard their hold on power, even in the face of overwhelming public support for term limits. The crucial vote ultimately ended 17 to 19, a difference of a mere two votes preventing the bill from advancing to the House floor. This underscores the significance of exerting sufficient pressure on Congress, as that vote could easily have swung in our favor.

The arguments from representatives against term limits bordered on the absurd, with descriptions such as "hooey" and attempts to endorse term limits for everyone but themselves. This stark contrast between public conviction, with 87% of Americans supporting term limits, and Congress's dismal 17% approval rating, underscores the need for the change only term limits can bring.

History has shown, that when an Article V proposal convention looms, Congress acts to preempt it. State legislatures possess the power to work together to both propose and ratify the amendment. We have the strong conviction that once an A5 convention is imminent, Congress will pass the proposal itself in order to craft

terms that they favor.

The term limits movement is now more robust and determined than ever. The state-based initiative for the Term Limits Convention is gaining momentum. As



more states join, we'll corner Congress and compel action. Our organization, U.S. Term Limits, is stronger and more influential than ever before.

The term limits movement remains unwavering in its commitment to bring fresh ideas and energy to Congress making career politicians a thing of the past.

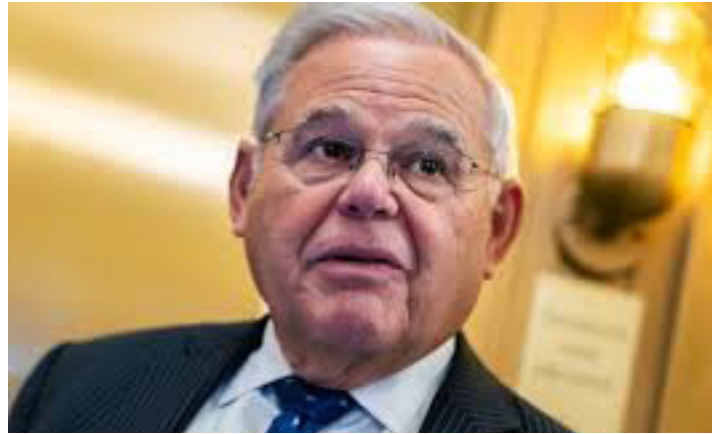
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Senator Menendez Indicted Again!

Senator Bob Menendez, “Gold Bar Bob,” is emblematic of the challenges associated with long-serving incumbents in Congress. Despite calls for his resignation over multiple indictments, including from fellow Democrats, he remains resolute on clinging to power. Menendez has been in Congress for more than 30 years, having been appointed to the U.S. Senate in 2006.

Throughout his tenure, Menendez faced multiple allegations of corruption and impropriety. In 2015, he was indicted on charges of bribery, fraud, and making false statements, with accusations of leveraging his position to benefit associates in exchange for lavish gifts and campaign contributions. Remarkably, he avoided conviction when his 2017 trial resulted in a hung jury, and charges were dropped in 2018.

However, in 2023, Menendez was indicted yet again, accused of accepting payments in exchange for political favors. Despite his “not guilty” plea, the allegations raise serious concerns about his ability to serve effectively, particularly as he chaired the Senate Foreign Relations com-



mittee. Menendez’s latest legal troubles alleges that he used his official capacity accepting bribes to enrich and protect himself and others and that he acted as an unregistered foreign agent for the Egyptian government.

The ongoing controversies surrounding “Gold Bar Bob” underscore the necessity of congressional term limits, as they would mitigate the risks associated with prolonged political careers and help maintain transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct.

PLEDGE SIGNER GABE AMO WINS RHODE ISLAND CD-1

U.S. Term Limits congratulates newly elected U.S. House member and pledge signer, Gabe Amo, on winning the special election for Rhode Island’s 1st Congressional District. Amo’s victory is a big win for both his constituents and for term limits supporters throughout the country. This brings the total of U.S. House representatives who signed the term limits pledge to 135.

Rep-elect Amo, the first African American house member in Rhode Island and first term limits pledge signer in the House from “the Ocean State,” beat out 10 candidates in the Democratic primary. Recently, he was a senior advisor in the Biden administration and deputy director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Amo understands the importance of open seat elections and the value it brings to reinvigorate government by bringing in legislators with fresh outlooks, new ideas, and not beholden to lobbyists and special interest groups.

U.S. Term Limits has contracted billboards in his district thanking him for his commitment to imposing term limits on Congress.



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

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Regional Directors Kenn Quinn (north) and Aaron Dukette (central) represented U.S. Term Limits at the New Hampshire First in the Nation Leadership Summit on October 13-14. The Summit brought together candidates, elected officials, and thought leaders to discuss solutions to the issues of the day.

Dukette and Quinn spoke with a slate of presidential hopefuls. They also gathered petitions from attendees who support term limits.

Pledge signer, Nikki Haley, made an appeal for congressional term limits to a strong round of applause from those in attendance. U.S. Term Limits Wisconsin State Chair Jason Church, a combat veteran, also gave a strong shout out for the term limits cause in his speech. New Hampshire's State Chair Chuck Morse, a candidate for governor, was also a keynote speaker.

Our participation in the New Hampshire First in the Nation Leadership Summit was a great success. We were able to raise awareness of the term limits movement and gather support for term limits from a wide range of people.



PENNSYLVANIA

Kenn Quinn recently delivered a compelling presentation to the Berks County Patriots in Pennsylvania, where the Article V convention was a hot topic of discussion. More than three hundred people gathered to hear about this important issue.

Quinn's presentation effectively countered opposition arguments that seek to mislead state legislators about the Article V application. Quinn specifically debunked the notion of a "runaway convention" by highlighting that the 1787 Federal Convention did not exceed its authority. He emphasized that an Article V convention is limited in scope and distinct from a Constitutional Convention.

Attendees were invited to delve deeper into Article V by attending a presentation at a local hotel. One attendee's email captures the enthusiasm generated by Quinn's presentation: "Your presentation was fact-packed, and I was thoroughly impressed. I also attended your presentation at the Best Western, and it was exceptional. I'm a patriot, deeply committed to America, and your insights have ignited my interest in being part of the solution."

Kenn Quinn's presentation has left a lasting impact, motivating individuals to take action in support of U.S. Term Limits.



Shanna Chamblee Named USTL South Region Director

Shanna Chamblee has accepted the position as South Region Director after serving for more than five years as USTL's Legislative Director.

She fills the vacancy left by the Ken Clark who retired in August. We thank Ken for his contributions and many years of service to our organization.

Ms. Chamblee began her political endeavors as an activist in Alabama and has been the Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs for an Alabama political organization since 2014.

As a member of a county party Executive Committee, Shanna serves on the Outreach and Event Plan-

ning subcommittee. In 2014, she became known as the Defender of Private Property Rights for her leadership role in a local petition initiative. Chamblee has served on many political campaigns, and was elected president of her local community center.

Shanna's mission in life is to leave a legacy of liberty for her eleven children whom she and her husband raise and home educate at their farm in rural Alabama.

Shanna's region includes the states of Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.



135 pledge signers in Congress



>934 pledge signers in state legislatures



87% of America

resolutions introduced in **19** states



November 28, 2023



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info@termlimits.org – Email
termlimits.org – Web

We finally got our vote in Congress (cont'd from page 1)

strategy to impose term limits on Congress.

Our state-based campaign is essential in pressuring Congress to set congressional term limits. As more states pass term limits convention resolutions, Congress will have no choice but to propose a term limits amendment on itself.

During the hearings, Rep. Mike Johnson of Louisiana voted in favor of our resolution. Since then, he was elected to the top spot in the House. For the first time ever, a pledge signer is Speaker of the U.S. House. Johnson is and has been a strong advocate of term limits, signing the term limits pledge in 2016 and cosponsoring USTL's resolutions since taking office in 2017. It is a significant development for our cause.

With Johnson's commitment, we have a powerful ally in the push for term limits and one who is the second in line of succession to the President of the United States.

Can we expect the turkeys to vote for Thanksgiving? Not without significant pressure from a government body more powerful than the U.S. Congress... the states.

Yes, if the states organize and coordinate to wield the authority granted to them by the U.S. Constitution, they will be the secret weapon needed to pressure Congress to act. We believe they have the courage and conviction to lead the term limits movement to victory.

Mr. Term Limits Goes to Washington

Executive Director of USTL, Nick Tomboulides, testified in support of HJR11, the resolution proposing a constitutional amendment limiting the number of years members of the U.S. Congress may serve.

Tomboulides appeared before the U.S. House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government, chaired by now Speaker Johnson, prior to the vote of the full Judiciary committee. During his testimony, Nick cited Gallup poll results that revealed a staggering lack of confidence Americans have in Congress. The poll entitled, "Confidence in U.S. Institutions is Down," put small business in the #1 position with the highest confidence rating of 70%. At just an 8% trust level, Congress earned the lowest confidence among all the institutions. These findings underscore the urgent need for institutional reform.



Tomboulides opened testimony by answering his own question, "With 87% of Americans wanting term limits, why is it not yet the law of the land? Because the permanent political class thinks the American people are wrong." He argued that the people of this country should absolutely have a right to determine which electoral reforms they want established.

In concluding his testimony, Tomboulides challenged members saying, "This upcoming vote on term limits is a defining moment for our country. The ball is in your court. You get to decide how history will remember you. Will you be remembered as the rich men north of Richmond? Or, will you be remembered as the modern day George Washington? When Washington had the opportunity to become king, he rejected the notion because he believed in this country and he believed in its people."

New Poll: 87% support term limits on Congress

A new Pew Research Poll indicates that “term limits for members of Congress are widely popular with both Republicans and Republican leaning independents (90%) and Democrats and Democratic leaners (86%).”

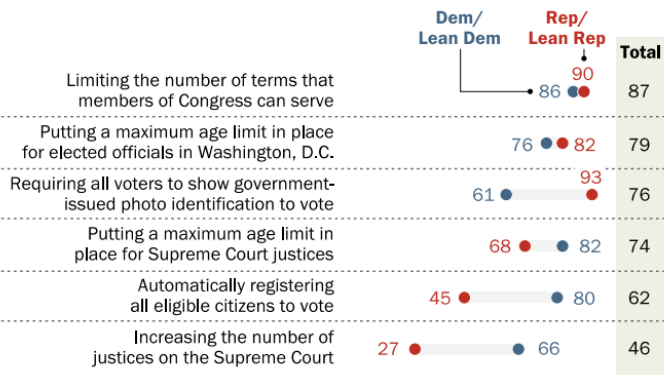
An overwhelming majority of adults (87%) favor limiting the number of terms that members of Congress are allowed to serve. This includes a majority (56%) who strongly favor this proposal; just 12% are opposed.

Dissatisfaction with the state of American politics has reached record-high levels, cutting across party lines and calling for urgent reform. A recent survey by the Pew Research Center reveals that a staggering 63% of Americans have little to no confidence in the future of U.S. politics, demonstrating a widespread lack of confidence in our political institutions.

The Pew Research Center’s extensive study highlights the deep dissatisfaction with the current political system, with just 4% of U.S. adults expressing any confidence in it. Positive perceptions of governmental and political institutions

Term limits draw bipartisan support; wide partisan gap in views of expanding Supreme Court

% who favor each of the following proposals



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
“Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

are at historic lows, with only 16% of the public trusting the federal government consistently.

This deepening distrust extends to both major political parties, with nearly three-in-ten Americans holding unfavorable opinions of both. This lack of trust further manifests in the dissatisfaction with the quality of political candidates, as 63% of Americans express their discontent.

In response to this growing crisis, Americans are increasingly demanding change. The Pew Research Center’s survey shows that majorities support both age and term limits for elected officials, aligning with the core mission of U.S. Term Limits. This growing support extends to other proposals, including establishing term limits for members of Congress. Age limits for federal elected officials and members of the Supreme Court also have strong support.

The Pew Research Center’s study serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for political reform in America. U.S. Term Limits, as a leading advocate for term limits, offers a path toward restoring trust in the political system. As disillusionment grows, the call for term limits transcends partisan divisions, providing an avenue to reinvigorate trust and put the interests of the people at the forefront.

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KEEP CALM AND TERM LIMIT CONGRESS

No Uncertain Terms

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A Publication of U.S. Term Limits

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Outrageous Politician! Former Mayor Fouts



Warren, Michigan Mayor Jim Fouts continues to wage a legal battle to challenge the term limits that bar him from seeking a fifth term. In 2020, the citizens overwhelmingly voted term limits into law. However, Fouts filed yet another lawsuit contending that the city council is violating his rights because term limits keep him off the November ballot!

An audit has uncovered unauthorized expenditures by Fouts, including \$50,000 from the city's bank accounts and \$60,000 in gift cards during the 2021-22 fiscal year. We can only imagine what other nefarious dealings will be uncovered once newly imposed term limits finally force him out of office. Stay tuned!