




Term Limits

The President has a term limit. Why not Congress?

By Tom Pryor

A portrait of Lord Acton, a man with a long, dark beard and mustache, wearing a dark suit jacket. The portrait is on the left side of the image, set against a textured, parchment-like background.

"All power tends to
corrupt and absolute
power corrupts absolutely."

~Lord Acton

NFD

Questions I will attempt to answer today:

1. What did the Founding Fathers think about term limits?
2. What are 8 reasons Americans are dissatisfied with Congress?
3. What is a term limit?
4. What are the Pro's and Con's of Congressional term limits?
5. What are three options to achieve a term limit?
6. What does Article 5 of the Constitution have to do with term limits?
7. What are the next steps?

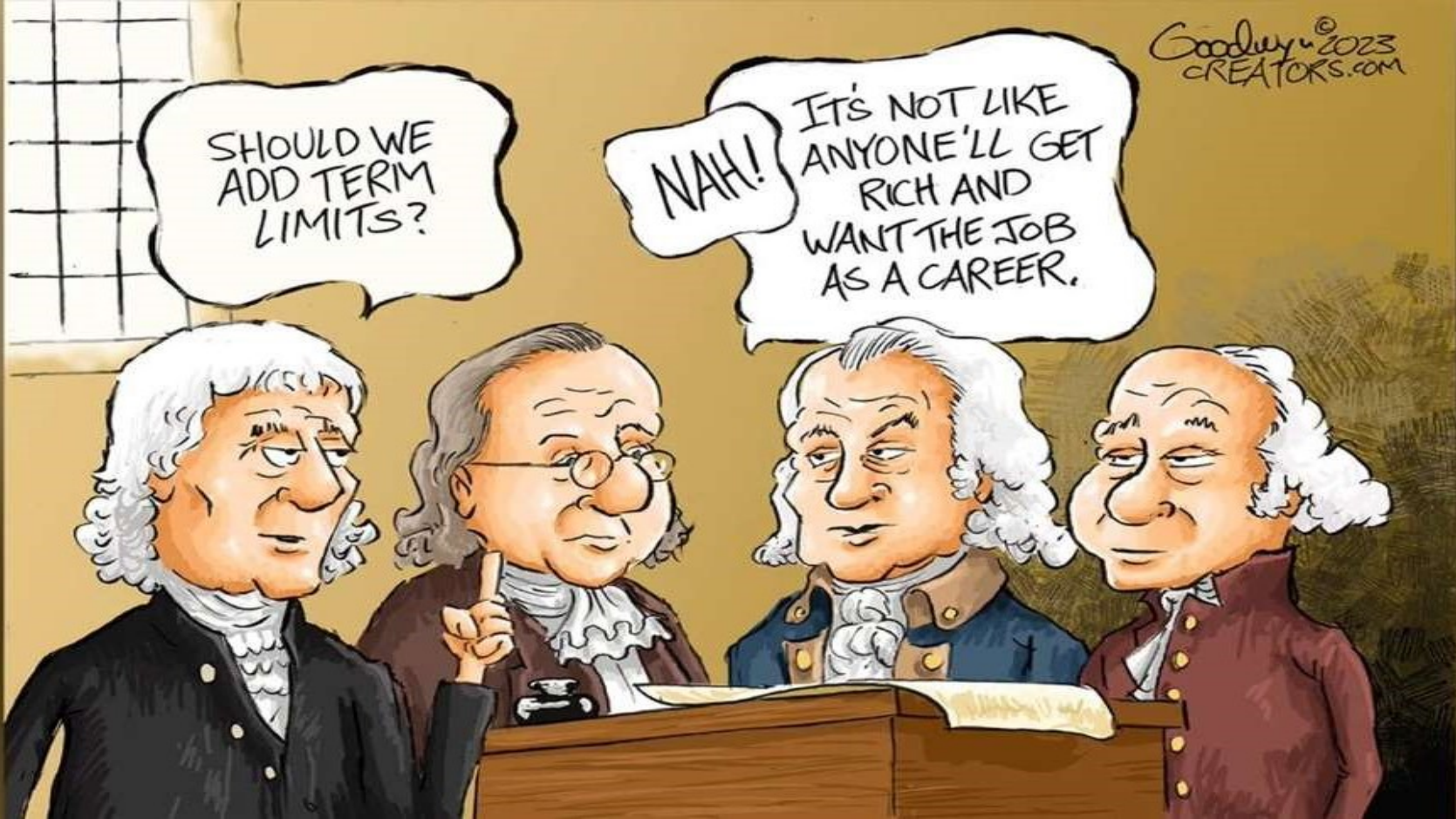
I believe members of the House and Senate
smell after three terms in office.



Guests, like fish, begin to smell
after three days.

~ Benjamin Franklin

Senator Chuck Grassley has served 43 years, not 12.
Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi has served 36 years, not 6.

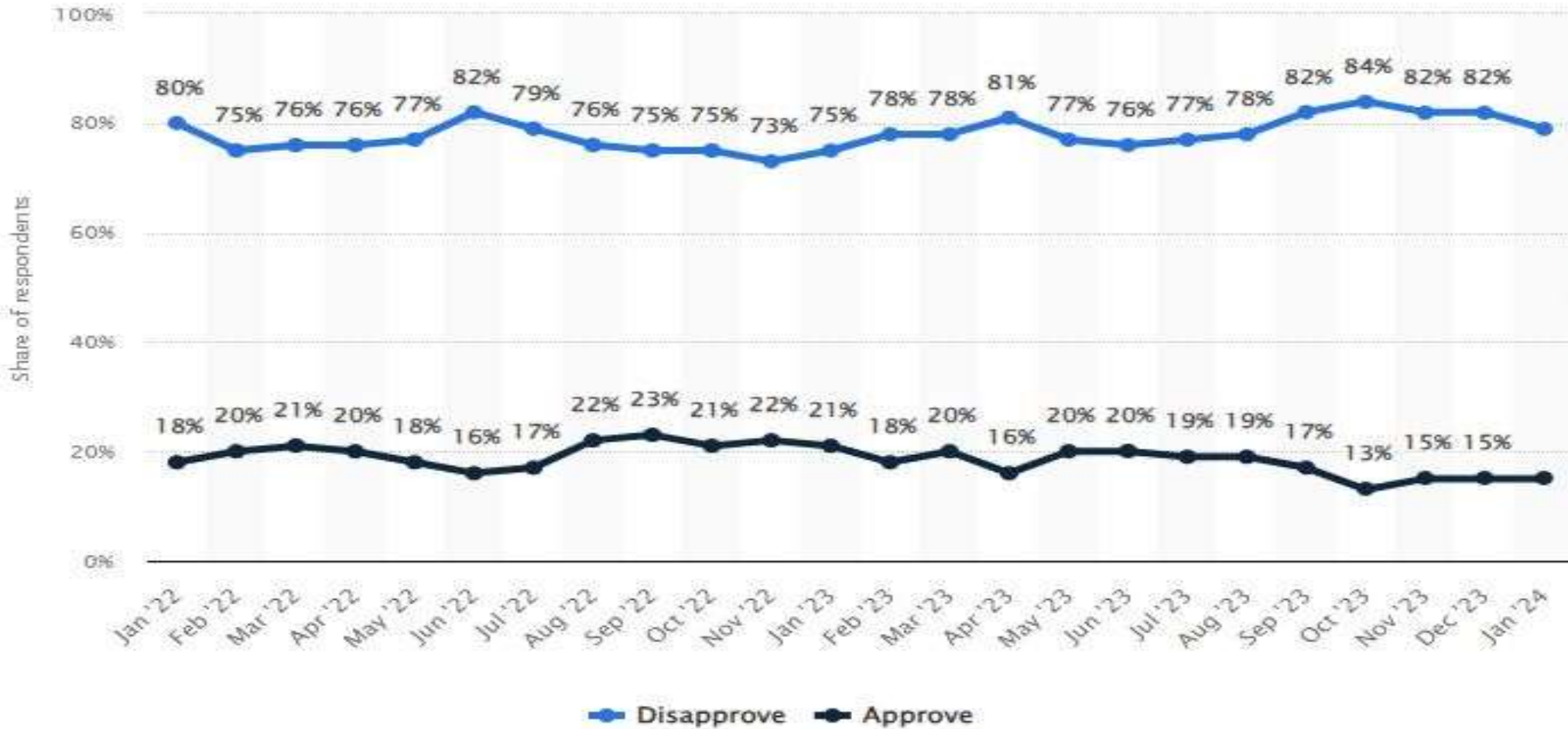


Did the founding fathers intend for America to have career politicians?

“The founders never thought of public service as a fulltime "career," as you and I would think of that concept, because they never saw public service as something that should be your main source of income. That is, they generally believed (which was a very English concept) that "gentlemen" who already had means enough to support themselves should hold higher office, because if they were wealthy enough to do so they would not be corrupted by trying to make a living from public office AND, therefore, they could make proper decisions for the betterment and welfare of those less fortunate than themselves.” Prof. Andrew Torget PhD



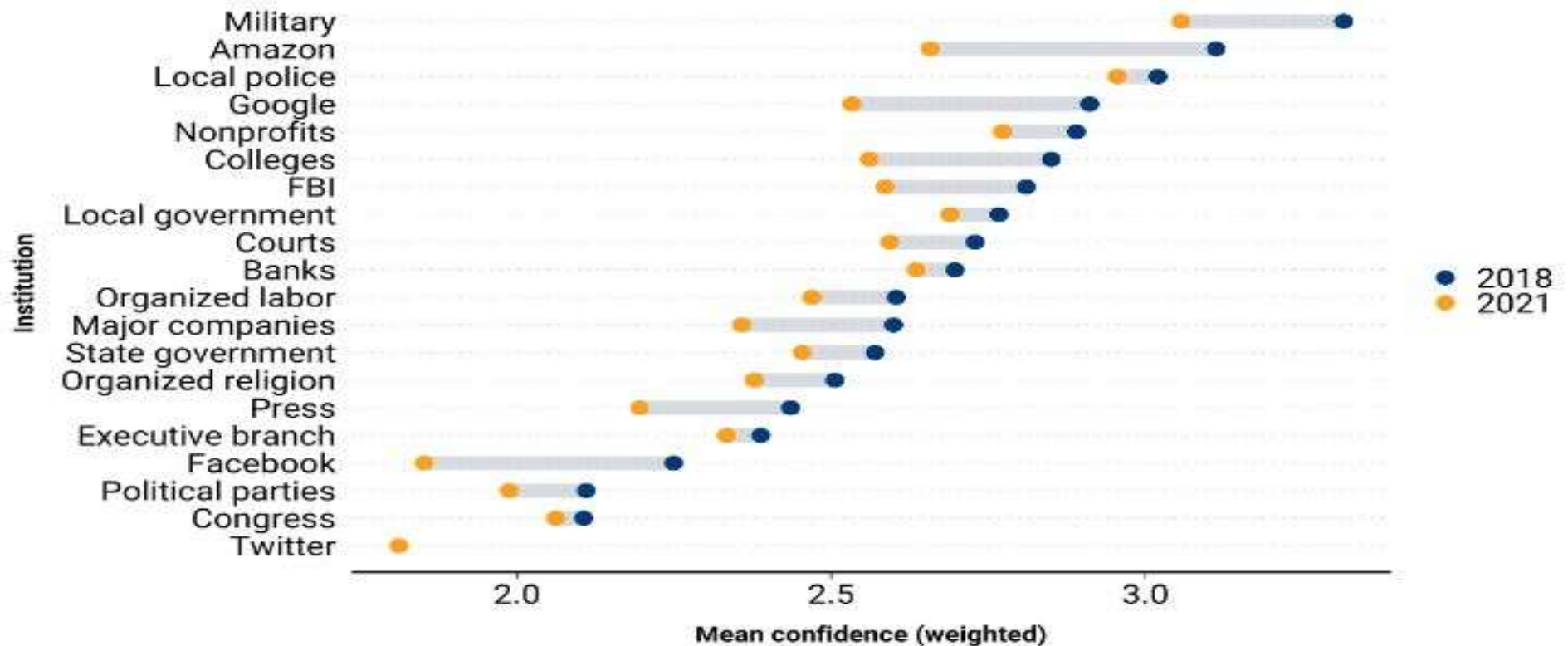
Only 15% of Americans approve of Congress !



Being the low-trust option should be embarrassing.

Shifts in mean confidence between 2018 and 2021

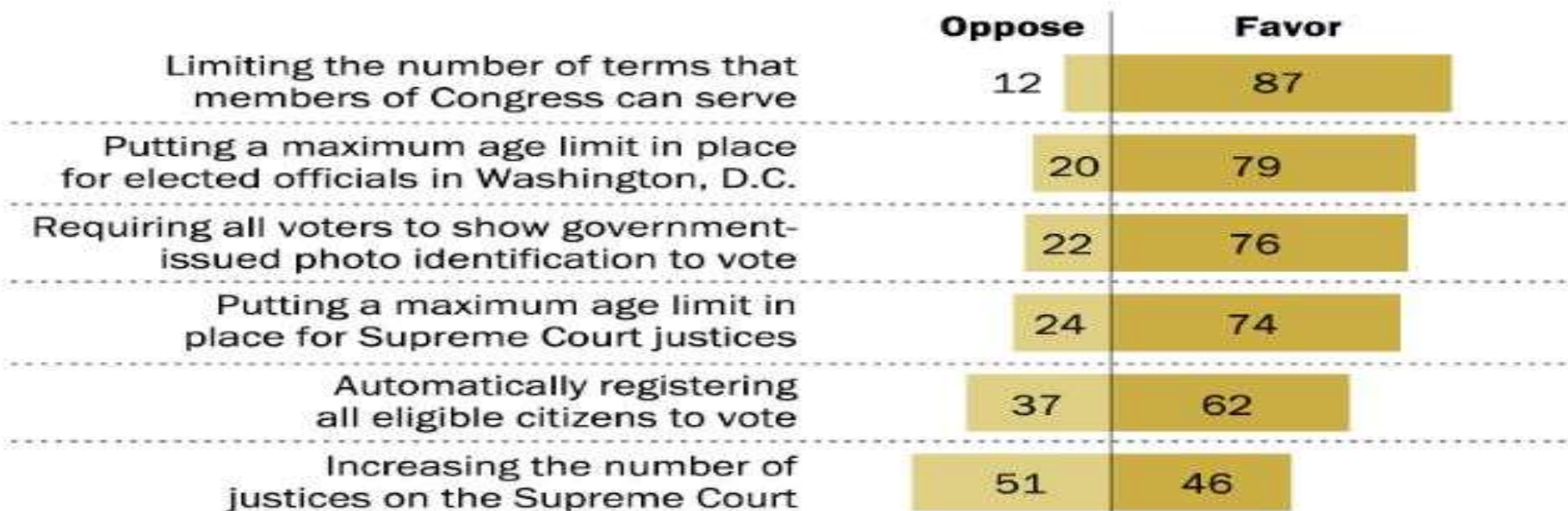
We compare the mean (weighted) confidence on a 1 (low) to 4 (high) point scale of a series of US government, non-profit, and commercial institutions in the 2018 and 2021 American Institutional Confidence Polls.



Source: American Institutional Confidence Polls

Broad public support for term limits for Congress, age limits for federal elected officials and Supreme Court

% who ___ each of the following proposals



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

"Americans' Dismal Views of the Nation's Politics"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Why are citizens dissatisfied with Congress?



- **Congress is too big.**
- **Members don't compromise.**



Why are citizens dissatisfied with Congress?



- **Congress is too big.**
- **Members don't compromise.**
- **They don't get anything done.**
- **They are overpaid.**
- **They spend 50%+ of their time raising contributions.**
- **They are not very responsive.**
- **They don't answer questions.**
- **They won't balance the budget.**





"I can fix the \$32 trillion US debt problem in 5 minutes. You pass a law that when there's a deficit of more than 3% of GDP, all sitting members congress are ineligible for re-election." - Warren Buffett

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION
TO ALL OF THESE
PROBLEMS?

TERM
LIMITS.

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IMMIGRATION
DEBT
HEALTH CARE

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What is meant by Term Limits?


- The only term limit today is the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution which limits a person to no more than two terms of 4 years as President.
- Most proponents of term limits for Congress support a maximum of two 6-year terms for a senator and three 2-year terms for the House of Representatives.
- I personally prefer one 8-year term for senators with one senator elected every four years in each state.
- I prefer one 6-year term for House members with half of each state elected every three years.
- Having one longer term would eliminate reelections and take some money out of politics.



Pros for Limits

- Majority of voters prefer term limits
- Stops seniority for congressmen
- Increases competition for new, talented individuals
- Takes away “career politicians”
- Breaks lobbying and special interests
- More voting on the right thing to do for the country
- Enhances fresh ideas and thinking

Cons for Term Limits

- Terminates “good “ politicians along with the “bad”.
 - Loss of knowledge and experience.
 - Staff and lobbyists will continue writing most legislation.
 - Elections may become more expensive.
 - Former members will continue being lobbyists.
 - Does nothing to limit influence of special interests.
 - Encourages “lame duck-ism”.
- 

What impact could a 12-year term limit have on the current U.S. Senate?

Longest serving senators



Chuck Grassley – 43 years



Patty Murray – 31 years



Mitch McConnell – 39 years



Chuck Schumer – 29 years

- **44 of the current 100 senators who have served for more than 12 years would be replaced.**
- **The leadership of both the Democrats (Chuck Schumer - 29 years) and Republicans (Mitch McConnell – 39 years) would not be in power.**



Term limits would cure both senility
and seniority- both terrible
legislative diseases.

— *Harry S. Truman* —

AZ QUOTES



“As long as the seniority system is in place, politicians will hold on to office as long as possible. Term limits would be a huge step toward a meritocracy on Capitol Hill.”

***Senator Tuberville
(R-Alabama)***

What impact could a 6-year term limit have on the current House of Representatives? Longest serving reps

- The average tenure of the current 435 representatives is 9 years.



Nancy Pelosi (D) – 36 years



Hal Rogers (R) – 43 years

- 189 (43%) of the current 435 reps have served for 6 or more years.

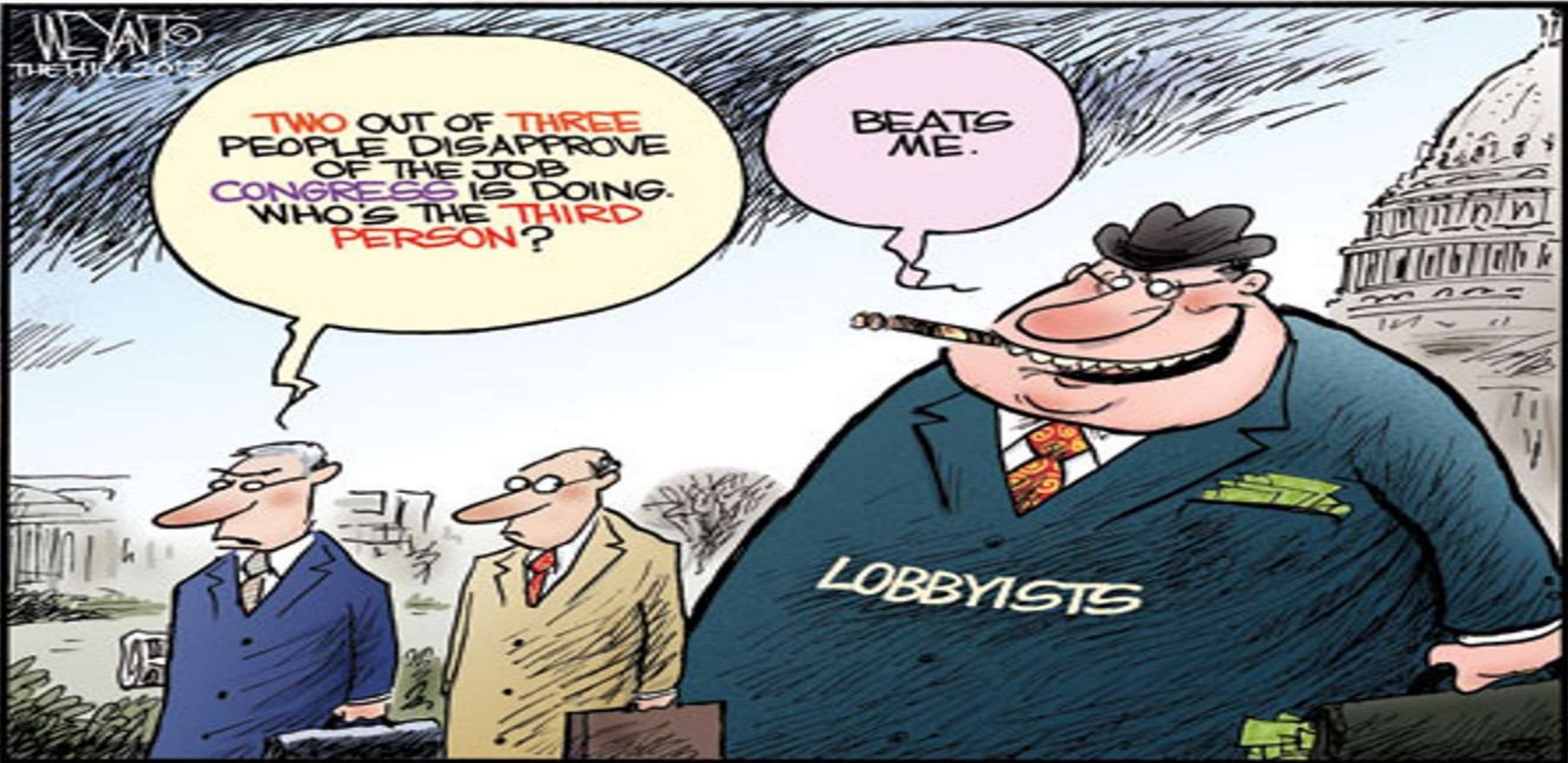


Chris Smith (R) – 43 years



Steny Hoyer (D) – 42 years

Lobbyist don't want term limits.

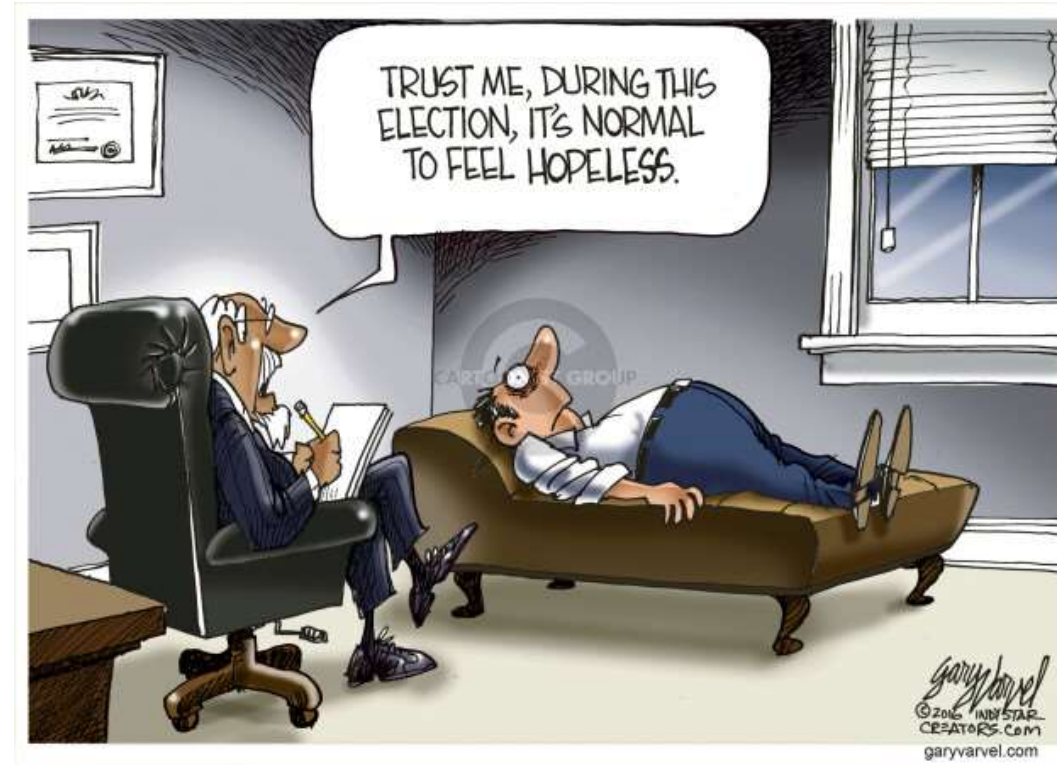


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Three options to get rid of career politicians:

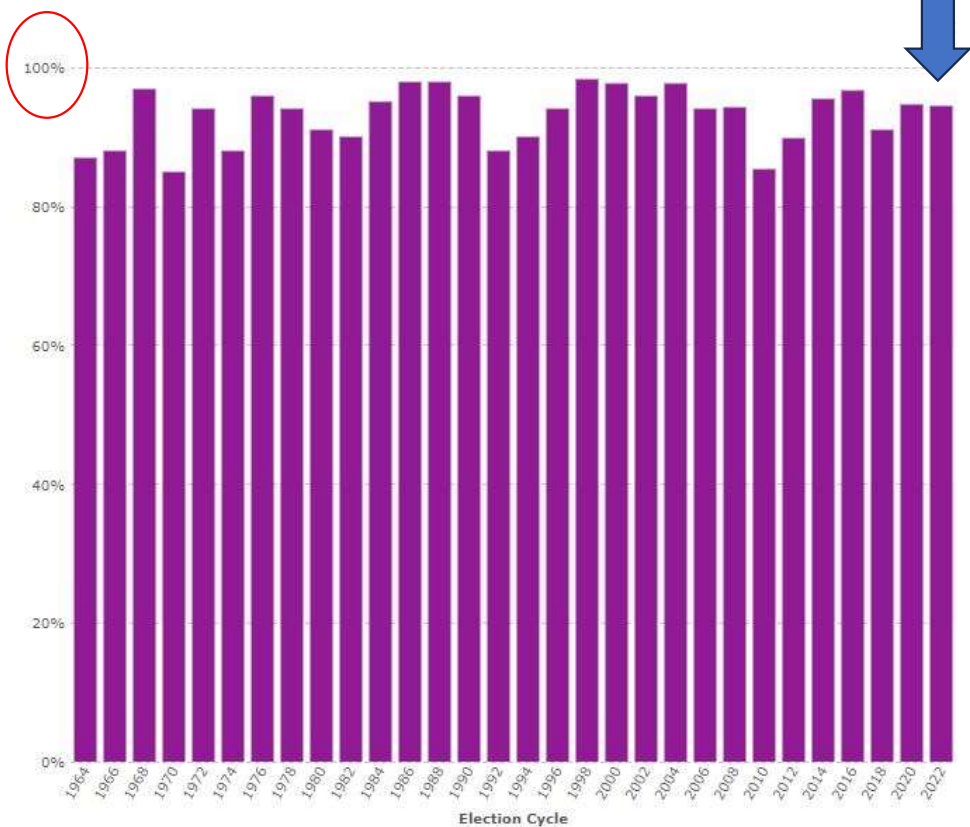
1. Elect new people to Congress.



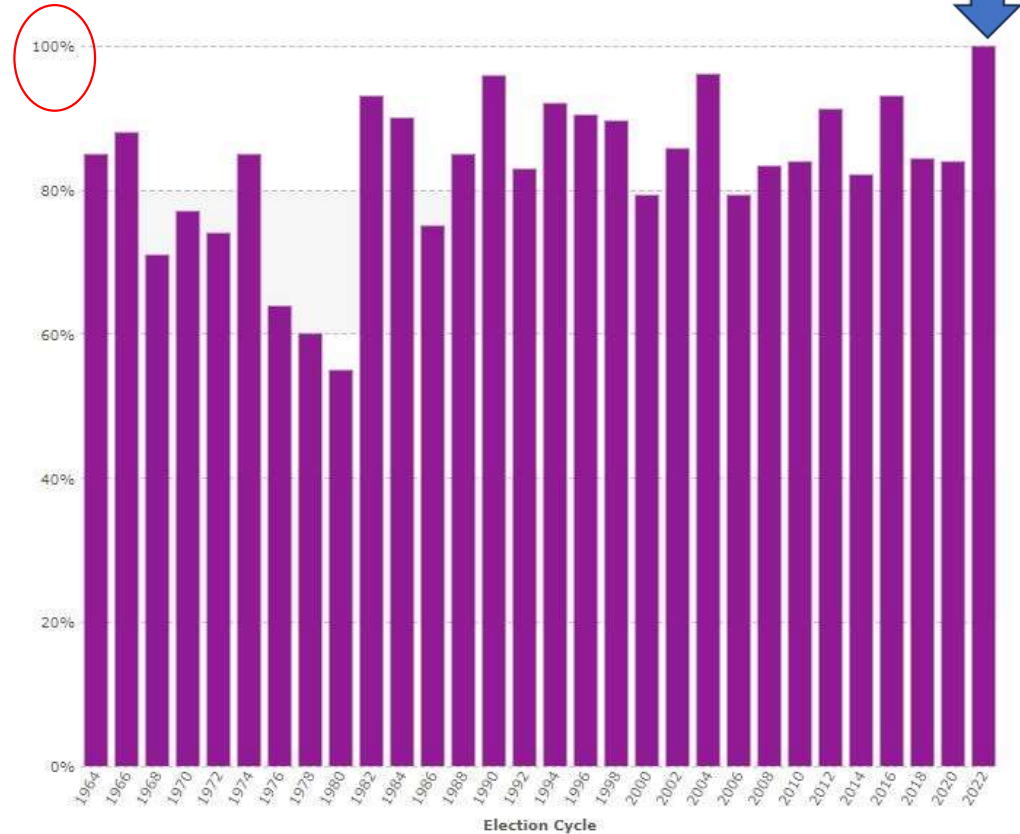
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Americans are dissatisfied with Congress BUT we continue to reelect the people we don't like.

U.S. House Reelection Rates, 1964-2022

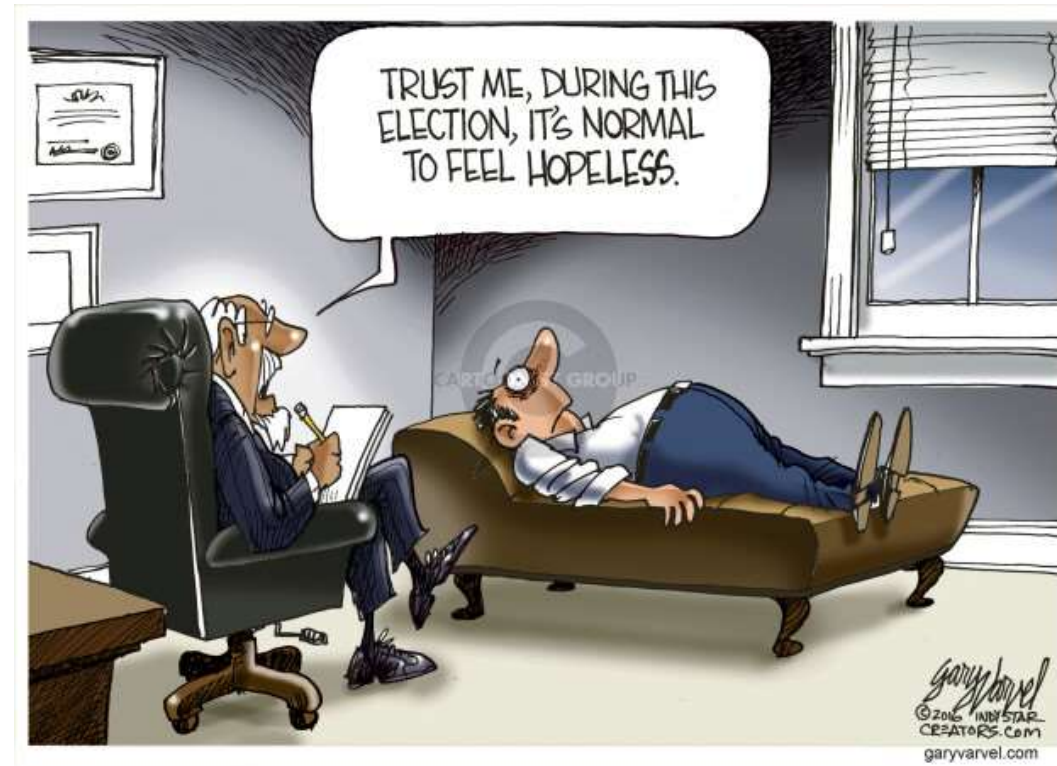


U.S. Senate Reelection Rates, 1964-2022



Three options to get rid of career politicians:

1. Elect new people to Congress.
2. Have Congress pass a term limits amendment.



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REPUBLICANS' CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

THIS IS A COPY of the contract signed on Tuesday, Sept. 27, by Republican candidates for the U.S. House.

As Republican members of the House of Representatives and as citizens seeking to join that body we propose not just to change its policies, but even more important, to restore the bonds of trust between the people and their elected representatives.

That is why, in this era of official evasion and posturing, we offer instead a detailed agenda for national renewal, a written commitment with no fine print.

This year's election offers the chance, after four decades of one-party control, to bring to the House a new majority that will transform the way Congress works. That historic change would be the end of government that is too big, too intrusive and too easy with the public's money. It can be the beginning of a Congress that respects the values and shares the faith of the American family.

Like Lincoln, our first Republican president, we intend to act "with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right." To restore accountability to Congress. To end its cycle of scandal and disgrace. To make us all proud again of the way free people govern themselves.

On the first day of the 104th Congress, the new Republican majority will immediately pass the following major reforms, aimed at restoring the faith and trust of the American people in their government:

FIRST, require all laws that apply to the rest of the country also apply equally to the Congress;

SECOND, select a major, independent auditing firm to conduct a comprehensive audit of Congress for waste, fraud or abuse;

THIRD, cut the number of House committees, and cut committee staff by one-third;

FOURTH, limit the terms of all committee chairs;

FIFTH, ban the casting of proxy votes in committee;

SIXTH, require committee meetings to be open to the public;

SEVENTH, require a three-fifths majority vote to pass a tax increase;

EIGHTH, guarantee an honest accounting of our federal budget by implementing zero base-line budgeting.

Thereafter, within the first 100 days of the 104th Congress, we shall bring to the House floor the following bills, each to be given full and open debate, each to be given a clear and fair vote and each to be immediately available this day for public inspection and scrutiny.

1. THE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT

A balanced-budget/tax-limitation amendment and a legislative line-item veto to restore fiscal responsibility to an out-of-control Congress, requiring them to live under the same budget constraints as families and businesses.

2. THE TAKING BACK OUR STREETS ACT

An anti-crime package including stronger truth-in-sentencing, "good faith" exclusionary rule exemptions, effective death-penalty provisions, and cuts in social spending from this summer's "crime" bill to fund prison construction and additional law enforcement to keep people secure in their neighborhoods and kids safe in their schools.

3. THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT

Discourage illegitimacy and teen pregnancy by prohibiting welfare to minor mothers and denying increased AFDC for additional children while on welfare, cut spending for welfare programs, and enact a tough two-years-and-out provision with work requirements to promote individual responsibility.

4. THE FAMILY REINFORCEMENT ACT

Child-support enforcement, tax incentives for adoption, strengthening rights of parents in their children's education, stronger child-pornography laws, and an elderly dependent care tax credit to reinforce the central role of families in American society.

5. THE AMERICAN DREAM RESTORATION ACT

A \$500 per child tax credit, begin repeal of the marriage tax penalty, and creation of American Dream Savings Accounts to provide middle-class tax relief.

6. THE NATIONAL SECURITY RESTORATION ACT

No U.S. troops under U.N. command and restoration of the essential parts of our national-security funding to strengthen our national defense and maintain our credibility around the world.

7. THE SENIOR CITIZENS FAIRNESS ACT

Raise the Social Security earnings limit which currently forces seniors out of the work force, repeal the 1993 tax hikes on Social Security benefits and provide tax incentives for private long-term care insurance to let older Americans keep more of what they have earned over the years.

8. THE JOB CREATION AND WAGE ENHANCEMENT ACT

Small business incentives, capital-gains cut and indexation, neutral cost recovery, risk assessment/cost-benefit analysis, strengthening the Regulatory Flexibility Act and unfunded mandate reform to create jobs and raise worker wages.

9. THE COMMON SENSE LEGAL REFORM ACT

"Loser pays" laws, reasonable limits on punitive damages and reform of product-liability laws to stem the endless tide of litigation.

10. THE CITIZEN LEGISLATURE ACT

A first-ever vote on term limits to replace career politicians with citizen legislators.

Further, we will instruct the House Budget Committee to report to the floor and we will work to enact additional budget savings, beyond the budget cuts specifically included in the legislation described above, to ensure that the federal budget deficit will be less than it would have been without the enactment of these bills.

Respecting the judgment of our fellow citizens as we seek their mandate for reform, we hereby pledge our names to this Contract with America.

290 votes in the House were needed in 1995 to pass term limits of 12 years in the House and 12 years in the Senate.

The final vote was only 227 so the measure failed.

Interestingly, 38 Democrats voted for term limits but 40 republicans voted no.

Out of the 10 promises, only 1 was not kept.

The new Speaker of the House supports Term Limits



17 Republicans on the Judiciary Committee voted for a Term Limits bill in 2024.

First Name	Last Name	State	Party	Date Assumed Office
Voted In Favor of HJR 11				
Benjamin	Cline	VA	REP	1/1/2019
Lance	Gooden	TX	REP	1/1/2019
Jeff	Van Drew	NJ	REP	1/1/2019
James	Jordan	OH	REP	1/1/2007
Kevin	Kiley	CA	REP	1/3/2023
Russell	Fry	SC	REP	1/3/2023
Matt	Gaetz	FL	REP	1/1/2017
James	Johnson	LA	REP	1/1/2017
Victoria	Spartz	IN	REP	1/1/2021
Tom	Tiffany	WI	REP	1/1/2020
Chip	Roy	TX	REP	1/1/2019
Cliff	Bentz	OR	REP	1/1/2021
Felix	Moore	AL	REP	1/1/2021
Troy	Nehls	TX	REP	1/1/2021
Thomas	Massie	KY	REP	1/1/2012
Laurel	Lee	FL	REP	1/3/2023
James	Bishop	NC	REP	1/1/2019



19 Republicans & Democrats voted down the Term Limits bill in 2024.

Here is a listing with party affiliation along with the year they entered office.

Voted Against HJR 11				
Harriet	Hageman	WY	REP	1/3/2023
Jerrold	Nadler	NY	DEM	1/1/1992
Mary	Scanlon	PA	DEM	1/1/2018
Sheila	Jackson Lee	TX	DEM	1/1/1995
Veronica	Escobar	TX	DEM	1/1/2019
Steve	Cohen	TN	DEM	1/1/2007
Lou	Correa	CA	DEM	1/1/2017
Darrell	Issa	CA	REP	1/1/2021
Zoe	Lofgren	CA	DEM	1/1/1995
Glenn	Ivey	MD	DEM	1/3/2023
Rebecca	Balint	VT	DEM	1/3/2023
Joseph	Neguse	CO	DEM	1/1/2019
Adam	Schiff	DC	DEM	1/1/2001
Eric	Swalwell	CA	DEM	1/1/2013
Scott	Fitzgerald	WI	REP	1/1/2021
Henry	Johnson	GA	DEM	1/1/2007
Ted	Lieu	CA	DEM	1/1/2015
Thomas	McClintock	CA	REP	1/1/2009
Deborah	Ross	NC	DEM	1/1/2021



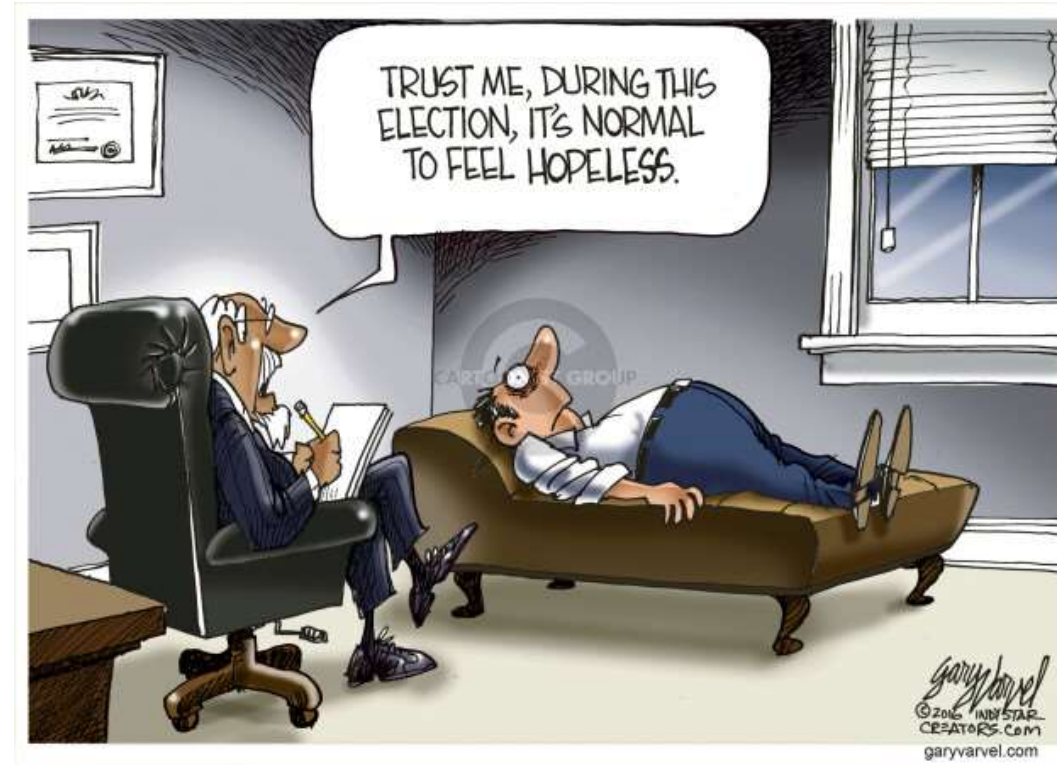
Why do people hug on to their positions in Congress ?

- Members get annual allowances between \$1M to \$3M to staff and manage their offices and travel.
- The House and Senate average working 138-162 days per year.
- They receive a 72% subsidy for health insurance.
- Members can receive a lifelong pension of 80% of their salary.
- Free parking at airports.
- Being in the limelight.



Three options to get rid of career politicians:

1. Elect new people to Congress.
2. Have Congress pass a term limits amendment.
3. Use Article 5 of the Constitution, enabling states to propose Constitutional amendments like term limits.



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FOOL ME ONCE
SHAME ON YOU...

FOOL ME TWICE
SHAME ON ME...

FOOL ME THREE
TIMES, WE NEED
TERM LIMITS !



PROVERBS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

2013
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Convention of States

Article V



1. Proposes **Amendments** to **"this"** U.S. Constitution
2. **Limited** to subject of state application
3. Authority-follows direction of Article V- apply to Congress, **Congress calls**- after application by 2/3 of the states
4. **Scope- propose** individual Amendments
5. Votes for passage at convention **simple majority = 26 states**
6. **Individual Amendments** singly **ratified by 3/4 of states**
7. **Binds ALL states**



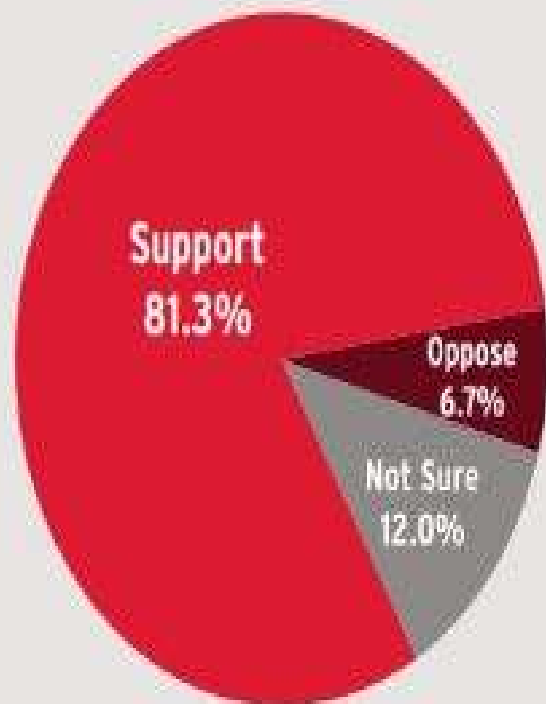
“ I will venture to add that, to me, the convention mode seems preferable, in that it allows amendments to originate with the people themselves, instead of only permitting them to take, or reject, propositions, originated by others, not especially chosen for that purpose, and which might not be precisely such, as they would wish to either accept or refuse.”

March 4, 1861, inaugural address

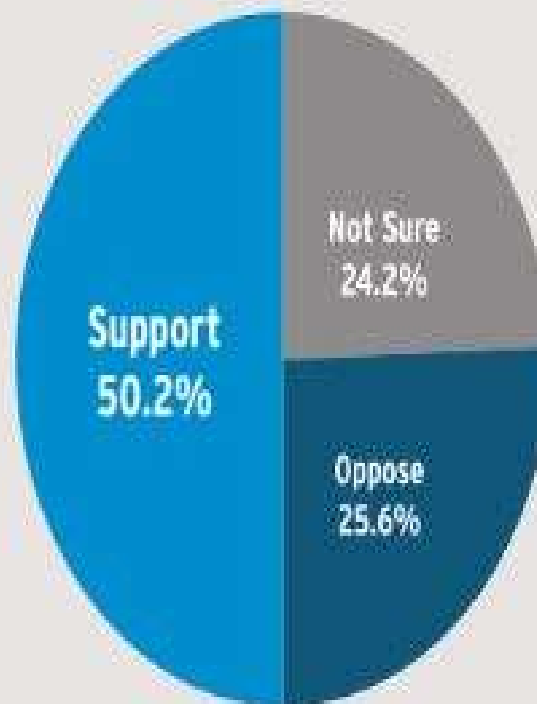
Support for a Convention of States By Party Affiliation

for amendments to impose fiscal restraints, limit federal power, and set term limits

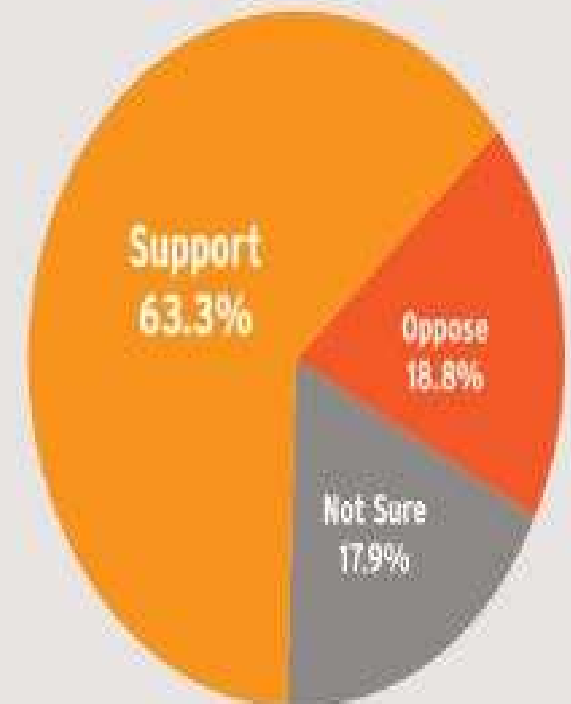
REPUBLICANS



DEMOCRATS



INDEPENDENTS



**DEFEND OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.
REJECT & RESCIND CALLS FOR AN ARTICLE V CONVENTION.**

★ **Common Cause**



We the People of the U
*...to secure the Blessings of Liberty, provide for the common defense, pro
...the Blessings of Liberty, provide for the common defense, pro*

[ConventionofStates.com](https://www.conventionofstates.com) is taking the lead to encourage state legislators to call for a convention



MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT!

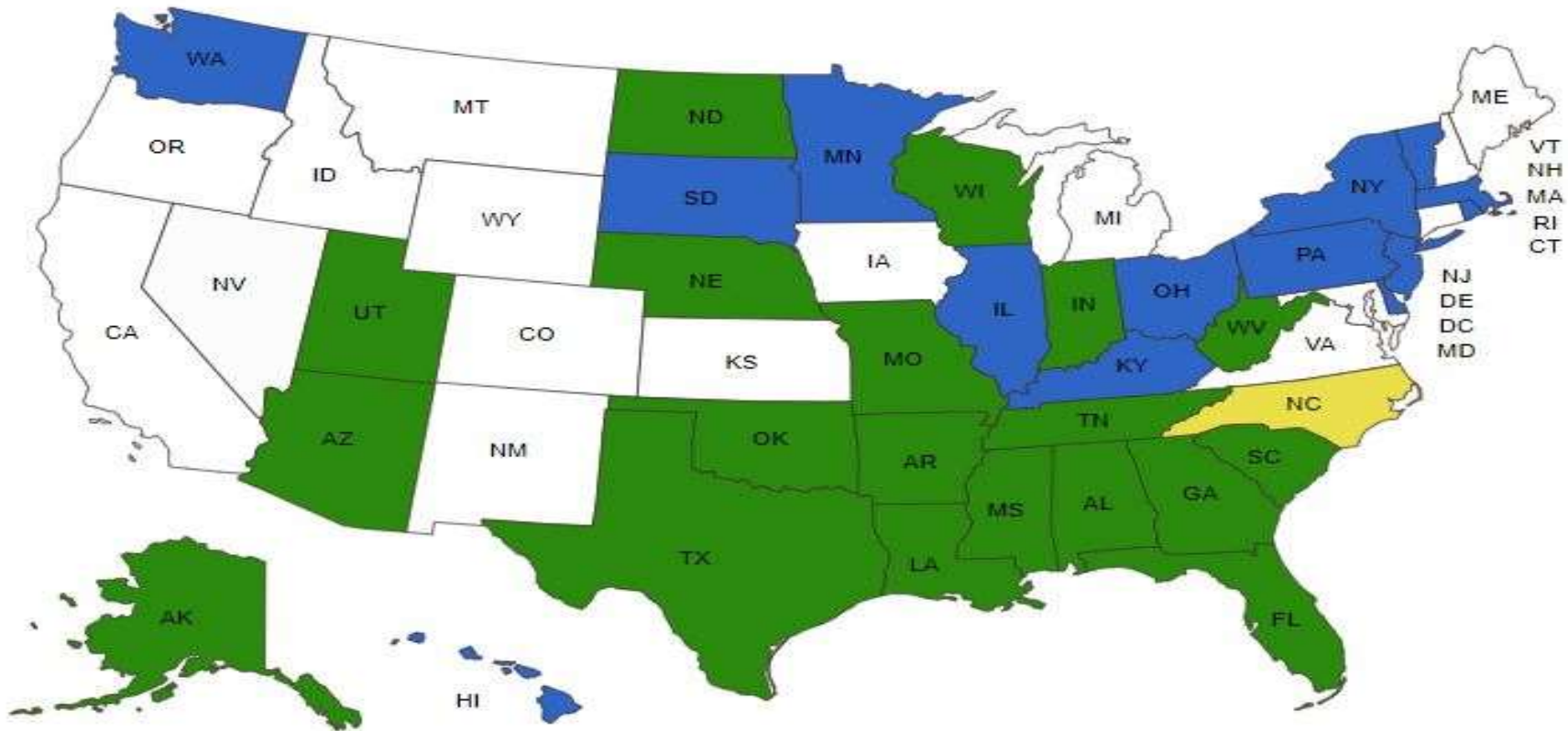
**Urge Your Legislator to Pass the COS
Resolution for an Article V Convention.**

GIVE TO THE SOLUTION, TODAY!

Submit Your Petition Below



34 states must agree to a Convention of States



18

19

7

■ Active Legislation in this year

■ Passed COS Resolution

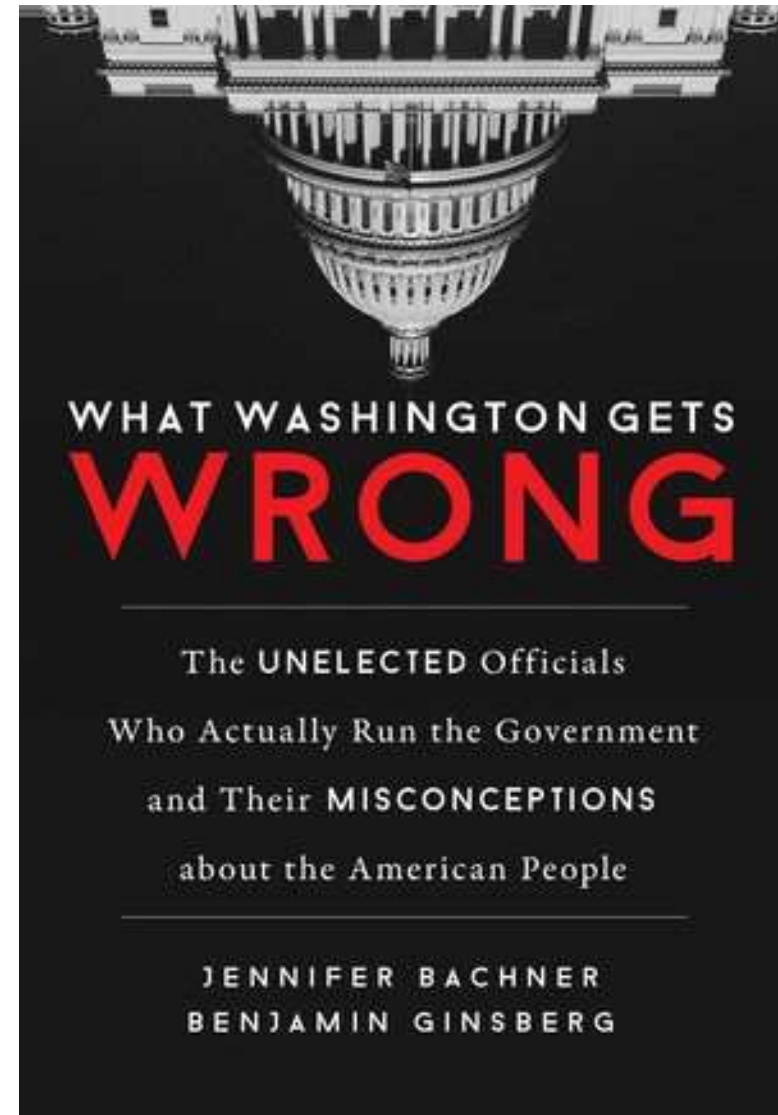
■ Passed in one chamber

The threat of a Convention of States could be enough to cause Congress to pass a term limits bill.



Having term limits on members of the House and Senate won't solve every problem in Washington.

Senator Roger Marshall, R-Kansas, has introduced a bill that would impose 12-year term limits on federal employees.

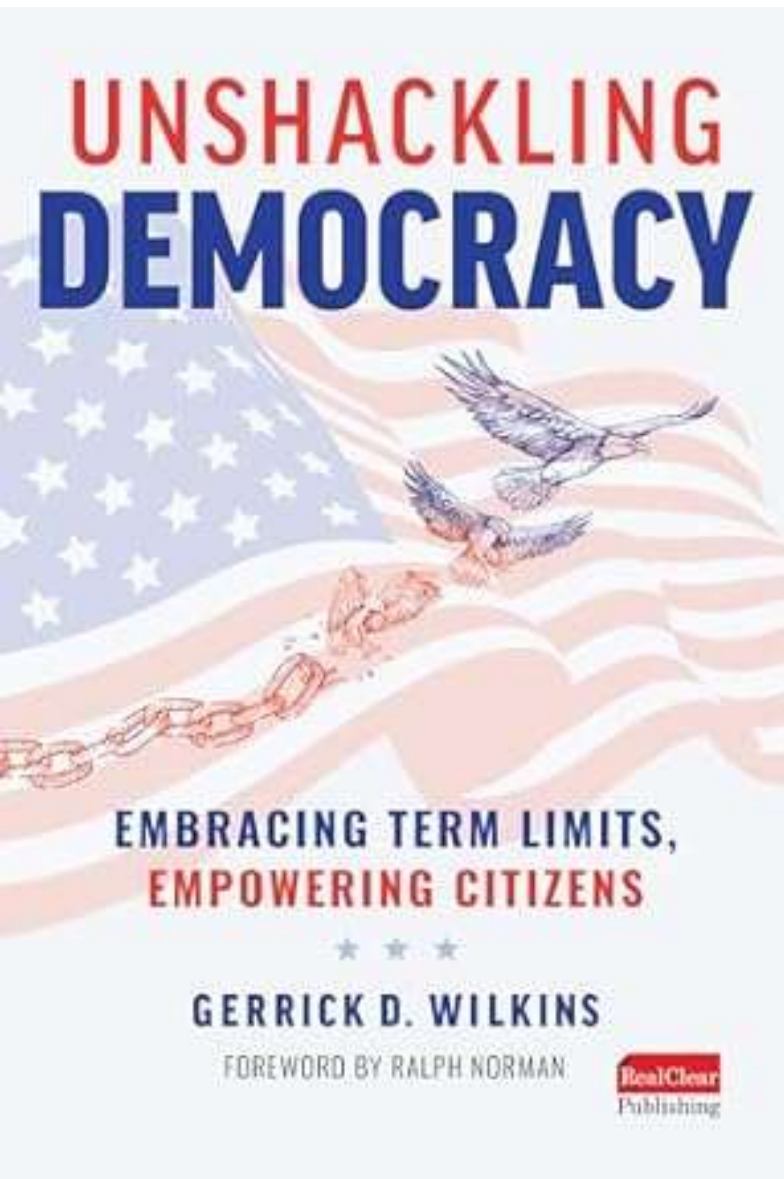


“If you keep doing what you’ve always done, you’ll keep getting what you’ve always got.”

Zig Zigler

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I recommend reading this book, written by Gerrick Wilkins, an Alabama Honda car dealer, that is running for Congress in 2024. If elected, he has promised to serve for no more than three 2-year terms.

The book covers the reasons for seeking Congressional term limits, the pros & cons, and why a Convention of States is needed to amend the Constitution.

Sign the Petition to Call for an **ARTICLE V CONVENTION**

I support Convention of States; a national movement to call a convention under Article V of the United States Constitution, restricted to proposing amendments that will impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit its power and jurisdiction, and impose term limits on its officials and members of Congress.

[See Full Petition Here](#)

Send me email updates

Send me text message updates

By checking this box, you agree to receive text messages sent via an "autodialer". Our text messages are intended to inform you of events, calls to action, volunteering opportunities, and other matters pertaining to self-governance. Text STOP to stop receiving messages. Text HELP for more info. Message frequency varies. Message and data rates may apply. View [Terms & Conditions](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).

Provide your full address and we will deliver your petition directly to your state legislator's now and again during the legislative sessions. **Free of Charge.** [We Protect your privacy.](#) **Reside outside US?**

I am a U.S. Veteran

Yes, I would like to volunteer for COS!

Please be sure to check the "Send me email updates" box, and include your phone number above.

How did you hear about us:

SEND TO MY STATE LEGISLATORS

If you support term limits for Congress, sign the petition at cosaction.com

CANDIDATE /
LEGISLATOR
PLEDGE

SUPPORTER
PETITION

COLLECT
PETITIONS

VOLUNTEER
LIST

DIGITAL TO

STATE
FACEBOOK
PAGES

TAKE ACTION
TERM LIMITS
3/27

SIGN THE TERM LIMITS

PETITION.

Let Congress know you're fed up! Help us bypass D.C. and impose term limits on the U.S. House and Senate by signing the national term limits petition. We are closing in on our goal of two million term limits supporters!

[Sign Petition »](#)

If you support term limits for Congress, sign the petition at [TermLimits.com](https://www.termlimits.com)

**If it is good enough for the
White House**



Then it is good enough for this house



TERM LIMITS FOR CONGRESS