



Talking Points Against Term Limits

Term Limits is a bad idea on two counts. We don't need yet another call for an Article V Constitutional Convention and we certainly don't need term limits.

1. We have 'term limits', they are called "elections", every two, four, and six years. Just because voters are derelict in their duty, does not mean we must change our process.
2. 'Artificial' term limits means giving the bureaucracy a LOT more power, in that institutional memory and experience is no longer available.
3. Voters are prohibited from voting for the person they believe is best for that office.
4. We all know that in the last term any official serves, without re-election on the horizon, there is no longer the accountability that was once there.
5. This would also interfere with legislators gaining seniority to gain committee chairmanships and leadership positions.
6. This would prevent legislators from gaining the experience they need to become skilled lawmakers.
7. This would give lobbyists more influence. In his presidential farewell address in 1989, Reagan rightly pointed out that term limits are “a preemption of the people’s right to vote for whomever they want as many times as they want.”

Here's a look at congressional tenure by the numbers:

9.1 years: Average length of service in the United States House of Representatives as of January 2013, according to the Congressional Research Service.

10.2 years: Average length of service in the U.S. Senate as of January 2013.

The way to effectively reform Congress lies in supporting and voting for candidates who uphold the belief in a stronger local government rather than a stronger national government. Term limits will not achieve the reform that is needed in our federal government because term limits will NOT RESTRAIN the power of our federal government.