

No Uncertain Terms

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Arizona Becomes the 14th State to Pass Term Limits Bill

Arizona's statewide passage of our Article V resolution for congressional term limits marks a historic turning point. By becoming the 14th state legislature to adopt this measure—the 8th in just 2 ½ years—Arizona brings us closer to a diverse Congress that works for the people, not their pockets.

This victory is a defining moment that demonstrates the power of a legislative body that aligns itself with the constituents it serves—who overwhelmingly agree that public service should be a calling, not a stagnant fixture of power.

A term-limited Congress means a consistent influx of fresh faces—teachers, doctors, mechanics, and small business owners—who bring practical real-world experience and a nuanced understanding of the critical issues we face. Term limits remove the constant pressure of campaigning for the next election, allowing our

representatives to shift their focus from fundraising to serving their constituents, and then returning home to live under the very laws they enacted.

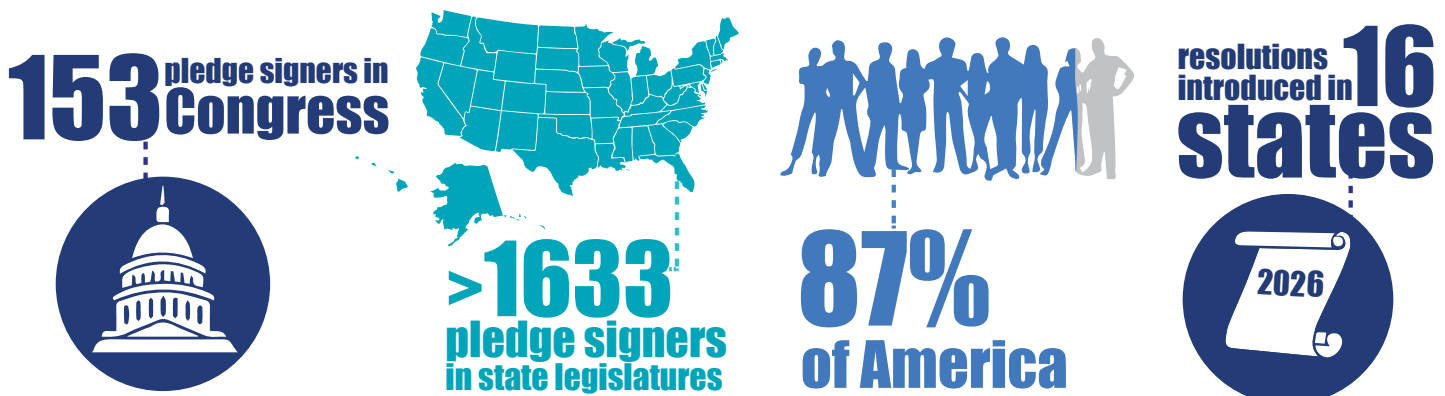
We are incredibly thankful to the coalition of visionaries that made this possible. This includes our sponsors Rep. Jeff Weninger and Sen. J.D. Mesnard,

each lawmaker who supported our resolution, the dedicated donors whose generosity provided the means to amplify the voice of our movement—and last but not least, each individual who took action, made calls, and refused to let the status quo remain the standard.



Rep. Jeff Weninger (left) and Sen. J.D. Mesnard (right)
Photo: G. Skidmore | CC BY-SA 2.0 & 3.0

Congress counts on the belief that you're powerless to change the system, but every milestone we reach shatters that narrative. It's time to wield the power granted to us by the Constitution and finally restore the vision of a government that truly serves the people.





President's Corner BY PHILIP BLUMEL

10% Approval and the Death of Public Trust

Public faith in our legislative branch has hit an abysmal new low. According to a recent Gallup poll, congressional approval has plummeted to a staggering 10%. To put that in perspective, we are hovering just a single point above the all-time record low of 9%—a dismal figure set in 2013 following the 16-day partial government shutdown.

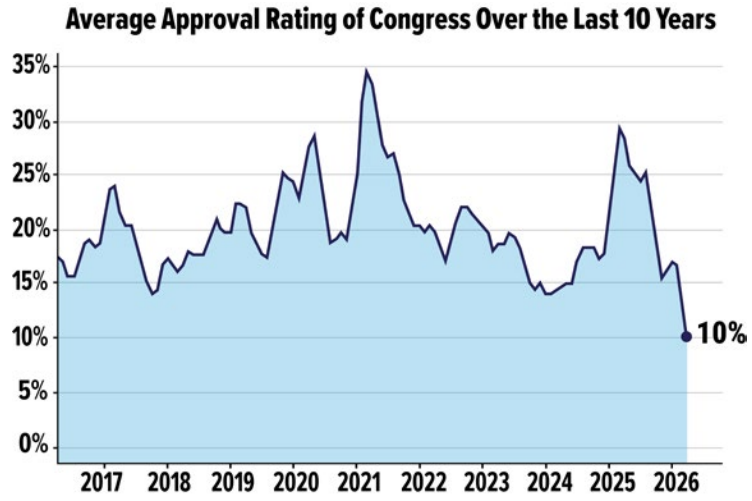
This drastic decline is a direct result of the persistent inaction from our representatives. The Department of Homeland Security was mired in yet another record-breaking shutdown for almost 2 1/2 months, and voter frustration reached the breaking point as hundreds of thousands of Americans faced financial hardships from inconsistent funding and the subsequent furloughs.

When stagnation is fueled by an institutional culture that prioritizes political theater over the electorate's basic needs, it's clear Congress is the problem. Even with partisan trifectas in the past—held

The Lobbyist Myth Debunked

Opponents of term limits claim that they leave newcomers at the mercy of seasoned lobbyists. This "lobbyist myth" ignores the reality of influence: relationships are a lobbyist's primary currency. Former lobbyist Jack Abramoff debunked this, noting that his industry relies on decades of access to incumbents. When a lawmaker is term-limited, that investment vanishes. If term limits truly empowered lobbyists, they would be funding the movement instead of spending millions to defeat it.

Research confirms this. A London School of Economics study found that lobbyists lose an average of \$177,000 in income when a connected member leaves office. Cambridge University research shows that term limits disrupt these networks, forcing



by Republicans from 2017-2019 and Democrats from 2021-2023—progress stalled at the bottleneck of self-interest.

The responsibility of reform has long since shifted from Congress' hands; breaking this cycle of paralysis requires the American people to stand up and to stand together as a united front in order to pave the path toward a congressional term limits amendment.



Former lobbyist Jack Abramoff | Photo: M. Ball | CC BY-SA 2.0 (modified)

lobbyists to argue based on merit rather than backroom familiarity. By breaking these ties, term limits replace the "permanent political class" with a citizen legislature accountable to the people.

Power is a Loan: Hungary's Plan to Enact Term Limits

After sixteen years, Viktor Orbán's iron grip on Hungary has finally ceased. On April 12, 2026, a political landslide reshaped Central Europe as Péter Magyar and his TISZA Party secured a historic two-thirds supermajority (The Guardian). This wasn't merely an election—it was a foreclosure on the illiberal model that had come to define the region.



Former Hungary Prime Minister Viktor Orbán © European Union | Photo by: A. Michailidis (modified)

Magyar, a 45-year-old lawyer and former diplomat, was once part of the Fidesz inner circle; however, in early 2024, he famously broke ranks to expose a massive pardon scandal involving child

abuse cover-ups, accusing the government of using officials as scapegoats to protect the Prime Minister's "mafia state" (Time Magazine; AP News). His defection transformed him into a whistleblower hero for an electorate suffocated by inflation and political stagnation (European Policy Centre).

The crown jewel of Magyar's platform is the Anti-Autocracy Amendment, a bold constitutional reset featuring:

- **An 8-Year Cap:** A strict limit of two terms for the Prime Minister.
- **Retroactive Power:** This limit effectively bars Orbán from ever becoming Prime Minister again because he served 4 terms. (The Guardian).
- **Popular Sovereignty:** Shifting the presidency to a popular vote to provide a direct check on executive power.

Power is a loan from the people, not a permanent possession," Magyar declared on election night (The Guardian). By enshrining term limits, Hungary has traded the stagnation of a permanent elite for the dynamism of institutional renewal. This shift demands a government that is both agile and accountable, ensuring national progress is never again anchored to the whims of a single leader. The illiberal fortress has been dismantled; in its place stands a foundation for democratic reclamation.



Prime Minister elect Péter Magyar, Hungary | Photo: N. Bánhalmi | CC BY-SA 4.0 (modified)

Pelosi Backs San Francisco Term Limits

Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi has officially signaled her support for Proposition B, a local ballot measure designed to fundamentally reshape San Francisco’s political landscape. The initiative seeks to implement a strict lifetime limit of two full terms for both mayors and supervisors, effectively ending the current system that allows officials to return to office after a four-year hiatus.



Nancy Pelosi | Photo: U.S. Congress | Public Domain

Pelosi’s endorsement reflects a broader philosophy she has championed at the national level: the belief that a vibrant democracy requires deliberate leadership transitions. By closing the loophole of returning incumbency, Prop. B aims to foster a constant influx of fresh perspectives and innovative ideas. This move aligns with a growing public demand for generational change and greater demographic representation within the political arena.

The Speaker Emerita’s advocacy for this reform mirrors her own transition in late 2022, when she stepped down from House leadership to usher in a new era of Democratic voices. By supporting Prop. B, Pelosi reinforces the principle that institutionalizing turnover is essential for both lowering barriers to entry for emerging leaders and ensuring that governance remains as dynamic and multifaceted as the community it represents.

Ultimately, Proposition B serves as a powerful testament to the idea that true leadership involves knowing when to pass the torch. By championing lifetime limits in her home city, she is advocating for a structural safeguard against political stagnation, ensuring that San Francisco’s “political laboratory” remains open to a diverse pipeline of talent. This approbation bridges her historic legacy in Washington with a forward-looking vision for local reform, reinforcing a vital democratic truth: in order for government to remain resilient and representative, it must be committed to the process of constant renewal.

Irrefutable Momentum: Landing on Every Desk

State legislators are bombarded with thousands of emails every session, but there is one message they cannot afford to overlook: congressional term limits. While our field team is busy walking the halls of state capitals, we are amplifying their reach through a high-impact legislative mailing program.

Every month, our letters land directly on the desks of legislatures across the country—irrefutable proof that the momentum for term limits is undeniable. Our recent mailings have focused on:

- **Showcasing Victories:** We highlight the latest states to pass our Article V resolution in the house or senate chamber, as well as our statewide ratifications on our progress map, showing lawmakers exactly how close we are to the finish line.
- **Data-Driven Advocacy:** We provide state-specific polling that proves—without a doubt—that the vast majority of their own constituents demand

term limits. This data is available publicly at termlimits.com/research.

- **Debunking the Myths:** In addition to supplying deep-dive research, we also shed light on common misconceptions, empowering pro-term limits legislators to champion the cause with confidence.

A handshake in capitol hallways starts the conversation, but our consistent presence on their desks ensures dialogue ends. With every letter, we remind your representatives that they serve the people—and the people are finished waiting for change.



Four New State Chairs Join U.S. Term Limits



We are thrilled to announce the appointment of four distinguished leaders to our State Chair program. Spearheading advocacy efforts in New Hampshire, Virginia, New Mexico, and Nevada, these new state chairs bring a wealth of experience and a shared commitment to restoring accountability through congressional term limits.

Leading the charge in New Hampshire is former Representative Linda Massimilla, who views this as a constitutional necessity, asking: “When government ceases to work for we the people, the Founding Fathers included a constitutional amendment process to be used by the states to right the country. If the times we live in don’t warrant this usage, then when does it?”

The momentum carries into Virginia with Dr. Ibraheem Samirah, who believes term limits are the key to institutional change. “For many, serving has become a lifelong entitlement,” Dr. Samirah noted. “Term limits will help improve accountability, diversify Congress, and make government work better for all Americans.”

Moving west, former state Senator Siah Correa Hemphill joins the movement in New Mexico. Hemphill emphasizes that “our citizens deserve fresh perspectives and a system that prioritizes results over career politics,” expressing that “New Mexico can play a leading role in restoring accountability and trust.”

In Nevada, Laura Perkins rallies to the cause. Working alongside Co-Chair David Brog, Perkins aims to ensure the Nevada legislature adopts the congressional term limits resolution—a reform she describes as a “crystal clear” necessity in today’s political climate.

As the movement for congressional term limits continues to sweep the nation, these leaders will be at the forefront of ensuring their respective states lead the charge—and we’re looking forward to this collaborative effort toward meaningful congressional reform.



The Capitol Bubble Pops Amidst Government Shutdown



The United States weathered the longest government shutdown in history, surpassing the 43-day record set in 2025. While this was a partial shutdown, the stakes couldn't have been higher. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was shuttered for 75 days because Congress did not reach an agreement on Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) reforms.

The impact on those protecting our borders was devastating, and the frustration felt by the American public boiled over. In an interview with CNBC, Delta Airlines CEO Ed Bastian stated that it's inexcusable that our security and frontline agents are being used as political chips—and took the unprecedented step of suspending specialty services for members of the U.S. House and Senate and co-signed an open letter to Congress alongside nine other aviation CEOs.

Yet, despite the bad press and airline restrictions, leadership in Washington remained insulated. From March 30th to April 14th, Congress took a two-week recess. It's critical to note that DHS employees are paid bimonthly, so this hiatus without a solution guaranteed that these essential workers would miss yet another paycheck.

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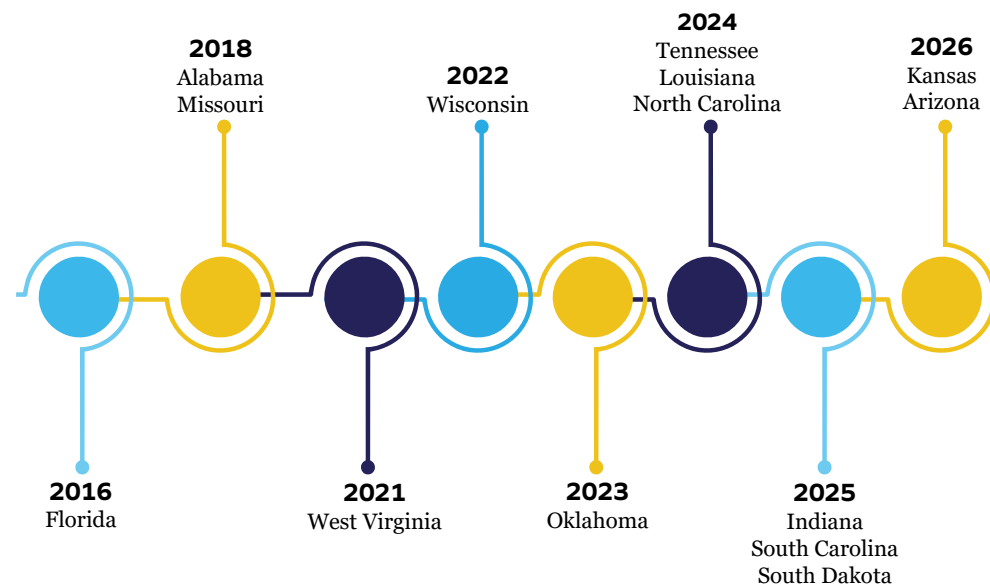
This cycle continues to repeat itself because under the current system, there are no immediate consequences for failure. With reelection rates north of 90% and a constitutional guarantee their paychecks will never skip a beat, Congress prioritizes partisan brinkmanship over basic governance.

The bottom line is that we cannot expect different results from the same representatives that recycle the same failed tactics. As long as Congress faces no personal or professional backlash for their inability to do their jobs, shutdowns will remain a recurring tool of political theater.

Our Progress

To date, our state resolutions have passed in 14 states.

Momentum is building as the pace has accelerated from 3 states in the first 5 years to 11 states in the last 5 years.



North Dakota's Constitutional Standoff

In 2022, North Dakotans ratified Constitutional Measure 1, establishing firm term limits to ensure fresh perspectives in their state government; however, recent maneuvering by the legislature proves that some lawmakers are already looking for ways to bypass the very rules their constituents set at the ballot box.

Constitutional Measure 1 was explicit and comprehensive. It established a maximum of two terms for the governor, and eight years in each chamber of the legislature, which includes all years served during a partial term. Most notably, Section 4 of Article XV ensures these protections are “voter-locked.” Recognizing the inherent conflict of interest, the law bars representatives from altering their own limits. Only a citizen initiative petition can change the parameters of their service.

Unfortunately, some lawmakers treated the law as a mere suggestion. In 2025, the legislature passed SCR4008, a direct attempt to grant itself the power to dictate its own term limits. This maneuver wasn't just a violation of the state constitution, or a blatant breach of trust to their constituents; it was concrete proof of why Article XV is necessary: turkeys will never vote for Thanksgiving.

This brazen disregard to the ballot box is now being challenged in the 2026 Supreme Court case *Larsen and Bjerke v. North Dakota Legislative Assembly*, which currently awaits a final ruling.



Rep. Kasper, one of the primary drivers of the 2025 legislative challenge to ND term limits.

Additionally, the legislature funded a \$220,000 “impact study” on the effect of term limits—before any lawmakers were actually term-limited. Since the measure was not retroactive, it only applies to elected officials following its ratification in 2022. The most dubious part of this study, however, is its highly questionable impartiality. The state hired a firm that lists former state senator Erin Oban as a member of the consulting team.

The bottom line is that North Dakotans voted for term limits to promote accountability and prevent the stagnation of career politics. By pushing SCR4008 and funding expensive, insider-led studies, North Dakota legislators showed that they value their seats more than the will of the people.

How You Can Help



contact your state & federal representatives



sign the petition



spread the word



donate



ask lawmakers to sign pledge

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The Outrageous Congress

Promises are often written in sand in Congress, but few reversals are as stark as that of Maine Senator Susan Collins. In 1996, Collins signed a pledge to cosponsor the congressional term limits amendment and a self-limit of two terms. Yet, thirty years later, she remains submerged in the Washington “hot tub,” adamantly refusing to honor her original commitment to the voters.

The cost of her tenure in office is staggering. According to data from OpenSecrets, Collins has accepted a massive sum of \$13,754,701 from PACs alone between 1996 and 2026. Furthermore, she is set to benefit from a \$42 million infusion from the Republican Senate Leadership Fund in her 2026 general election.

Additionally, her net worth skyrocketed from -\$250,000, to approximately \$8.5 million (Huntrjay). The correlation between three decades of incumbency and a soaring portfolio inevitably make voters wonder if her priorities are in the boardroom, or Maine living rooms.



Susan Collins | Photo: A. Kubitza (Public Domain)



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