

## U.S. Term Limits Resolution—The Basics

- **What is it?:** The resolution is a single-topic resolution calling for an Article V convention to propose one amendment for term limits on Congress.
- **How many have passed it?** 9 states have passed this resolution: FL, AL, WV, WI, TN, WV, MO, OK, and NC.
- **How does it work?** When 34 states pass this resolution, all 50 states would come together in an amendment proposing convention to debate different proposals for a congressional term limits amendment. Whatever is voted through is then sent to the states for ratification, and 38 states would need to ratify it for it to become law of the land.
- **Is there support for it?** Polls across the country routinely show this to be an 80% for /10% against issue. It uniquely cuts across party lines, demographic categories, and geographical boundaries. There is no other issue with broader consensus among the American people.
- **How is it unique?** This particular Article V convention call is unique in that it is tailored to the proposal of one amendment and in that it is an amendment with direct impact on members of Congress. Because of this, the reality is that *a term limits convention will never be actually called*. This is because Congress, when the states get close to 34, must preempt the convention call by proposing the amendment themselves and safeguarding their own careers by grandfathering themselves in. They can then finish out their careers while the reform is put in place for posterity. Therefore, concerns that some may have about the supposed “runaway convention” can be laid aside in this particular case.
- **Is there another way to do it?** Per the 1995 Supreme Court ruling in *U.S. Term Limits v. Thornton*, only a constitutional amendment may put term limits on Congress.
- **How many terms does it call for?** This resolution is an Article V convention call, does not pre-specify a specific amendment. What it does is trigger the Article V convention mechanism, whereby amendment proposals could be debated and one could be proposed and sent for ratification.
- **Who is U.S. Term Limits?** U.S. Term Limits is a non-partisan, non-profit advocacy group which pushes for term limits on Congress. It was founded in the early 1990s for this purpose, initially working with ballot initiative groups in the states to place term limits on state congressional delegations. This succeeded in 23 states, but the *U.S. Term Limits v. Thornton* case eliminated all of those laws.