



## **Elections. Term Limit Declarations for Congressional Candidates. Initiative Statute.**

### **Official Title and Summary Prepared by the Attorney General**

#### **ELECTIONS. TERM LIMIT DECLARATIONS FOR CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES. INITIATIVE STATUTE.**

- Permits congressional candidates to voluntarily sign non-binding declaration of intention to serve no more than three terms in House of Representatives or two terms in the United States Senate.
- Requires placement of information on ballots and state-sponsored voter education materials when authorized by candidates.
- Candidates may appear on official ballot without submitting declaration.
- Declaration by winning candidate applies to future elections for same office.

#### **Summary of Legislative Analyst's Estimate of Net State and Local Government Fiscal Impact:**

- Unknown, but probably not significant, election costs to the state and counties.



### Background

The Congress of the United States consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives. California's delegation to Congress consists of two senators and 52 representatives. Senators are elected for a term of six years and representatives are elected for a term of two years. The United States Constitution sets the general qualifications and duties of Members of Congress.

Federal law does not limit the number of terms a person may be elected to serve as a senator or representative in Congress. In 1992, California voters adopted Proposition 164, which established term limits for California's senators and representatives in Congress. However, Proposition 164 is not likely to go into effect. This is because the United States Supreme Court ruled, in a case involving similar limits established by other states, that the qualifications of office for federal elective officials may be changed only by an amendment to the United States Constitution.

Under current state law, the California Secretary of State processes information from candidates who wish to run for office, including declarations of their candidacy. County elections officials are responsible for preparing the content of the ballots for all candidates running for office.

### Proposal

This measure *allows* all candidates for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives from California to sign a declaration saying that, if elected, they either will or will not voluntarily limit their years of service. Candidates who agree to term limits would indicate that they will voluntarily serve no more than two terms in the Senate (or 12 years) or three terms in the House of Representatives (or 6 years).

In addition, a candidate can ask the Secretary of State to place on election ballots a statement that the candidate either did or did not sign such a declaration to voluntarily limit his or her terms of service.

The measure *does not require* a candidate to sign any declaration, nor does it require him or her to ask the Secretary of State to provide information regarding the declarations on the ballot.

### Fiscal Effect

This measure would result in additional election costs to the state and counties. The amount of the additional cost is unknown, but probably not significant.

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**For text of Proposition 27 see page 144**

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## Elections. Term Limit Declarations for Congressional Candidates. Initiative Statute.

### Argument in Favor of Proposition 27

*Vote YES on Proposition 27. Term Limits.*

Term limits on our state legislature are a great success—bringing new people and new ideas to Sacramento. Gone are much of the partisan bickering and backroom deals. Legislators spend their time getting things done for the people, instead of picking fights to score political points.

*A YES vote on Proposition 27 will help us bring new people and new ideas to Congress.*

When those who represent us serve for short periods of time, they stay connected to their communities and serve the public interest. Term limits help block the corruption and arrogance that comes from career politicians who are more concerned with their perks and privileges than with what's best for the people.

No wonder recent Field polls show that Californians support term limits by almost 3 to 1. The lobbyists and big special interests don't like term limits, but we know our California legislature is doing a much better job now.

Californians overwhelmingly support term limits on Congress too, but career politicians in Washington have ignored our votes. That's why it's still politics-as-usual in our nation's capitol. Recently Congress gave themselves yet another pay raise even though 80 percent of Americans opposed it. When it comes to issues we care about, Congress continues to do the bidding of the big special interests. They have refused to reform the election process, and thus 98.5 percent of incumbents won re-election in 1998.

The longer politicians spend in Washington, the less they represent us and the more they represent the special interests, the party bosses and their own career interests. But it doesn't have to be that way. The answer is to send citizen

legislators—not career politicians—to represent us in Congress.

When congressional candidates ask for our vote, we deserve to know whether they're looking to spend a lifetime in Washington as professional politicians or limited terms as public servants. Proposition 27 allows candidates to tell us on the record.

*A YES vote on Proposition 27 gives you important term limits information about candidates for Congress.*

- Term limits are a great success for our state legislature.
- But we still have too many career politicians in Washington.
- As voters, we deserve to know whether a candidate will be a career politician or a citizen legislator. That gives us a real choice about who will represent us in the U.S. Congress.

*Proposition 27 is a simple way to allow candidates to make their intentions clear: Do they want to represent us in Congress for a short period of public service or are they going to cash in on political careers? As voters, we deserve to know. Proposition 27 tells us.*

VOTE YES on PROPOSITION 27. TERM LIMITS.

**GEORGE E. MARTINEZ**

*Community Activist*

**SALLY REED IMPASTATO**

*Proponent, California Term Limit Committee*

**LEWIS K. UHLER**

*President, National Tax Limitation Committee*

### Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Proposition 27

Yes, we agree, the current system is broken. We wish their fantasy of citizen legislators would work, but it won't. It makes it worse for Californians. Here's why:

**SENIORITY IS NEEDED FOR FEDERAL MONEYS**

This initiative means that California's Congressional Representatives will never achieve enough seniority in Congress to Chair the Committees that direct Federal Spending. California's Federal tax dollars will be spent in other States.

**CALIFORNIA'S SHARE WILL GO TO GEORGIA AND TEXAS**

*Our share of moneys for:*

- Schools
- Police
- Seniors
- New Freeways, and
- Safe Drinking Water

*will go to other States without term limits and with long term legislators, costing California jobs.*

**CALIFORNIA'S BUSINESSES WILL BE HURT**

In the next economic downturn California will suffer

disproportionately hard. Less Federal dollars means higher crime, more homelessness, less for seniors, less police, and less dollars for schools.

**WE ARE ALMOST THERE IN VOTING DOWN THESE DANGEROUS IDEAS**

The last time Californians got to vote on term limits it was almost defeated. This proposal is much worse and more dangerous for California's economy. Vote it down. Let's not send our money to Georgia and Texas. Keep our money here.

**TERM LIMITS AREN'T WORKING**

The current term limit system is not working in California. Turnover is the problem. If it wasn't for our moderate Governor, the average citizen's pocketbook would be in real trouble.

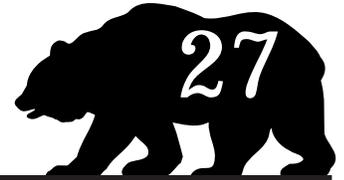
**FOR OVER 200 YEARS WE HAVE CHANGED PEOPLE IN OFFICE THROUGH ELECTIONS, NOT ARBITRARY RULES.**

**VOTE NO TO SAVE CALIFORNIA'S VOTING RIGHTS AND POWER IN CONGRESS!**

**MARK WHISLER**

*President, Sacramento City Taxpayers' Rights League*

## Elections. Term Limit Declarations for Congressional Candidates. Initiative Statute.



### Argument Against Proposition 27

#### *TERM LIMITS ARE PURE FOLLY.*

Term Limits are pure folly, passed for self serving Corporations at our expense. Since term limits were enacted in California we have seen a steady rise in the power of corporate paid lobbyists to get their pork barrel bills through the Legislature. If this year's Legislature doesn't support their giveaway plans, Corporations just wait for next year's Legislature. Politicians now need Corporate campaign money more than ever.

#### *LABELS ARE DIVISIVE AND DANGEROUS*

Let's not get started labeling our politicians. EVERY GROUP will want their label (look at our license plates). Do we really want to see "supports gray whales", "supports midnight basketball in schools", or "supports keeping abortions". Let's not make our voting ONLY about issues selected by others. Let's not cloud our ballot with emotionally charged labels. How will Californian's be able to elect moderate centrist consensus builders if every candidate is labeled by divisive issues to get elected? We won't!

#### *SENIORITY*

Congress still runs on a seniority system. If California's representatives can only stay 6 years the money, jobs, and benefits will flow to other states with long term representatives. That's how the system works. Voting yes will be bad for California's economy.

#### *LOBBYISTS FIX BILLS TO GET TAX DOLLARS FOR THEIR CORPORATE CLIENTS.*

Corporate lobbyists roam the US Capitol halls seeking tax breaks, reduced environmental responsibilities, lower employee benefit requirements, and other bills that are outright gifts to greedy Corporations. Under term limits, Corporate political campaign funds, more than ever, will decide who wins elections.

If this passes, Corporations will have a stronger grip on our Congress, as they already do with our State Legislature.

#### *CALIFORNIA HAS NEEDS FOR ITS OWN CITIZENS AND CHILDREN.*

California needs to devote its limited tax revenues to schools, roads, bridges, parks, libraries, and police services (to name a few). Our taxes should not be spent bailing out wealthy corporations. Don't be fooled. Voters have proven time and again they know when to vote NO, and this is one of them.

#### *YOU DON'T NEED TERM LIMITS. YOU CAN THROW THE "BUMS" OUT NOW.*

Resist the urge to use term limits to "throw the bums out." If your elected officials are bums, vote them out. The current system may be weak, but term limits will replace our Congress with unelected, powerful, hidden self-interest groups. California has numerous problems that our collective wisdom and community spirit can solve. A Legislature or Congress, sold to the highest bidder every two years, is not the answer. We need educated Legislators who understand the complexities and nuances of issues. They are our best choice for meaningful solutions, not on-the-job trainees with short term fixes.

#### *DON'T LEGISLATE THOUGHT POLICE.*

This initiative demonizes politicians who favor a long term rational approach to solving our problems. It goes too far. Please read the initiative and you'll see why to vote NO. This law is wrong for California.

#### *SAY NO TO THE CORPORATIONS AND SPECIAL INTERESTS.*

#### *VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION 27*

**MARK WHISLER**

*President, Sacramento City Taxpayers' Rights League*

### Rebuttal to Argument Against Proposition 27

**DON'T LET THEM DESTROY OUR VOTE FOR TERM LIMITS ON THE LEGISLATURE—OR IGNORE OUR VOTE FOR CONGRESSIONAL TERM LIMITS. VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION 27.**

The Sacramento-based opponent to Proposition 27 attacks the people of California for passing term limits on our state legislators. Where has he been living? Even those who at first opposed term limits now admit that it has worked, bringing new people with new ideas into public service.

Special interests are angry that they've lost control over our elected representatives. Good! Term-limited officials stay connected to the communities they serve, not the power-brokers in the Capitol.

Under term limits, our legislature passed the largest tax cut in a generation. Instead of never-ending political bickering, the legislature passed the budget on time for the first time in over a decade. Term limits work.

**TERM LIMITS HAVE HELPED OUR LEGISLATURE STAY CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE. VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION 27.**

The contributor list AGAINST term limits reads like a who's who of powerful lobbyists, big special interests and

well-connected corporations. The largest contributors have been big tobacco companies. Special interests want a government they control—at your expense.

#### **LOBBYISTS, BIG SPECIAL INTERESTS & POLITICALLY-CONNECTED CORPORATIONS HATE TERM LIMITS.**

A whopping 86 percent of lobbyists oppose term limits! These powerful interests get special favors from the career politicians in Congress. We have a right to representatives who represent us.

**CITIZEN LEGISLATORS. NOT CAREER POLITICIANS.  
VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION 27. TERM LIMITS.**

**LISA POWERS**

*Northern California Co-Chair, California Term Limit Committee*

**JUAN CARLOS ROS**

*Community Activist*

**DWIGHT FILLEY**

*Southern California Co-Chair, California Term Limit Committee*