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2021 Term Limits Fact Sheet

In the early days of the United States, most members of Congress served only one or a few terms before returning to private life. Senators frequently resigned before getting to the end of their six-year term. Being in Congress was seen as a short public service (much like jury duty), not a career.

These were true citizen legislators, working part-time in Congress before retiring and returning to their full-time jobs. They had to make a living under the burdens of regulation and taxation they had enacted as congressmen.

Today's members of Congress have become a permanent ruling class, staying in Washington for decades.

Here are some examples.



Sen. Bernie Sanders –
in his 31st year



Rep. Nancy Pelosi –
in her 35th year



Sen. Mitch McConnell –
in his 37th year

Sen. Charles Schumer – in his 41st year
Sen. Patrick Leahy – in his 47th year
Sen. Richard Shelby – in his 43rd year
Rep. Jerrold Nadler – in his 31st year

Rep. Maxine Waters – in her 31st year
Rep. Steny Hoyer – in his 41st year
Rep. Don Young – in his 49th year
Rep. Fred Upton – in his 35th year

It's no wonder they want to stay in Congress. They are paid \$174,000 per year, receive perks that include health insurance mostly paid for by the taxpayer, and after five years become vested for a pension which can be more than \$139,000. They can go on taxpayer-funded trips all over the world.

There is also very little chance that they will be defeated. They get to send out taxpayer-funded mailings to their constituents telling how great they are. They get huge amounts of free media. Very few challengers can match that. Most seats, especially in the House, change hands only when the incumbent dies, retires, or resigns.

And the longer they stay in Washington, the cozier they get with the bureaucrats and lobbyists and the more they support big government spending schemes. It is no coincidence that, during the 20th century, the increase in government spending went hand-in-hand with the rise of career congressmen.

America needs term limits for Congress, just as we have term limits for the President. Sen. Ted Cruz has introduced a constitutional amendment (S.J. Res. 3), and Rep. Ralph Norman has introduced the companion resolution in the House (H.J. Res. 12).

We must make this resolution the 28th Amendment to the Constitution!

Sign the petition for term limits by going to our website:

americansfortermlimits.net

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