

As I have traveled around Wisconsin, I have been asked often about term limits. This is an issue with many perspectives and it seems as though not a lot is known about the process. There is no Constitutional limit on the number of terms a member of the US House of Representatives or the US Senate may serve. In fact, prior to the 22nd Amendment, passed by Congress on March 21, 1947, and ratified February 27, 1951, there was no limit on the number of terms a President may serve. There still is no limit to the number of times a person may serve as Vice President of the United States. After two terms in office, President George Washington stepped aside, beginning a long tradition of two terms as Commander in Chief. A few men had attempted to run for a third term. President Grant and President Teddy Roosevelt and others had either run or considered it but didn't get far in the nomination process. The 22nd Amendment was passed and then ratified after President Franklin D. Roosevelt died nearly three months into his fourth term in April of 1945.

So back to Congressional limits. Currently, the only limit to terms in Congress is how often their constituents vote for them. The Founders had not foreseen career politicians, but rather men who would serve during sessions and then go back to being farmers and blacksmiths or whatever other careers back in their home districts. They also didn't impose limits because they felt the federal government should be limited in scope, and that all powers not delegated to the United States (federal government) was reserved to the states respectively or to the people. This is from the text of the 10th Amendment. They feared a strong national government and wished to control the power the federal government had.

To enact a change such as term limits for the Congress, they first would have to pass the amendment with a two-thirds majority. This means 290 members of the House of Representatives and 67 US Senators would have to vote for this. At this point, it would go to the states for a specified period of time and require at least thirty-eight states (their respective legislatures) to pass it. There are currently twenty-seven Amendments and all 27 have gone through this process. Regardless of what you may hear some candidates say, this is one avenue of the process laid out within the United States Constitution. Another way to amend the Constitution is referred to the Article V Convention. It requires thirty-four states to call a Constitutional Convention. Over the past sixty years or so, it has been attempted several times, but always fallen short of the required 34 states. Some proposed issues include a balanced budget Amendment, restrictions on abortion, a ban on school busing (think Civil Rights era pushback from *Brown v Board of Education*, 1954), apportionment of state legislatures, among others. Article V specifically states "The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several states, shall call for a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress;" I cut this short because the rest of the Amendment refers to Amendments passed prior to 1808.

I am putting a document on my website staceyforwisconsin.com that answers the many questions that arise when an Article V Convention comes up. This was prepared for the Members of Congress by the non-partisan Congressional Research Service. It tackles issues such as the role of the Congress or President in this process, what is authorized, the worries of a "Runaway Convention", who may serve as a delegate, among others. I invite you to read this thoroughly, so you fully understand that

STACEY for WISCONSIN

simply wanting a term limit in place is not an easy process. I also invite you to join our campaign to unseat Senator Tammy Baldwin, a tried and proven process-though an uphill battle- which gives all of the voters of Wisconsin a true choice in our representation. This seat is your seat, and your voice should be first on your Senator's mind, not some lobbyist, some special interest, or someone trying to buy the seat.

To close, from my family to yours, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a warm holiday season. As we enter the year 2024, I look forward to meeting with you, visiting your community, and taking our shared fight to Washington DC. All the best for a Happy New Year!



Stacey Klein
US Senate Candidate