

Subject: Judicial Term Limits**Text:**

“No federal trial or circuit court judge may serve in such office for more than thirty years in total. No Supreme Court Justice may serve in such office for more than eighteen years in total. This eighteen year term limit shall apply to all Justices confirmed after this amendment is ratified.

The terms of current Justices will expire on March 15 in even numbered years, starting the first even-numbered year after ratification of this amendment and taking place every two years thereafter, beginning with the longest serving current Justice and proceeding in order of seniority.

Each of the new Justices appointed in this manner shall be eligible to serve an eighteen year term, as shall their successors.

If a Justice retires or dies or is incapacitated prior to completion of a full term, the President shall nominate a replacement, who shall require advise and consent from a majority of Senators from each of the two largest parties.”

Reform Category(ies):

- Anti-Corruption, Transparency, Accountability
- Counter-Majoritarian Requirements
- Democratic Processes
- Enhanced Rights/Protections
- Limits to Political Power/Immunities
- Necessary Clarifications
- Responsible Government
- Separation of Powers/Check and balances

Branch(es) targeted:

- Legislative Executive Judicial

Justification:

The Constitution currently contains no term limits for members of federal judiciary. The prospect of unlimited tenure makes Supreme Court appointments more politically “valuable” and therefore more partisan, as does the uncertainty whether retirements/deaths of sitting Justices will occur in any given Presidential term (and reinforces a dangerous incentive for partisan assassination of Supreme Court justices).

Alternatives to Amendment? None, since there are no federal judicial term limits.

Similar proposals:

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