

REFORM ELECTIONS NOW

Breaking the partisan gridlock

*Can Term or Age Limits Can Make
Our Government More Effective?*

Representatives in the U.S. Government Are Old

Now that Biden has stepped aside, people are no longer talking about issues of tenure and age in our government. This is a mistake.

Whether it is Biden or Trump, McConnell, Grassley, or Pelosi, Clarence Thomas, or Alito; our government is the oldest in the world with the longest tenure in its branches. As a result, we have:

- A large age gap between our population and our officials.
- Fewer competitive elections, as career representatives gerrymander to keep themselves in power and keep out younger challengers.
- Disengaged younger voters, who have less than half the voter turnout of those over 65,* and
- A government out of touch on issues like AI and social media.

To resolve these issues, we need to consider Term and Age Limits.

Let's review the data.

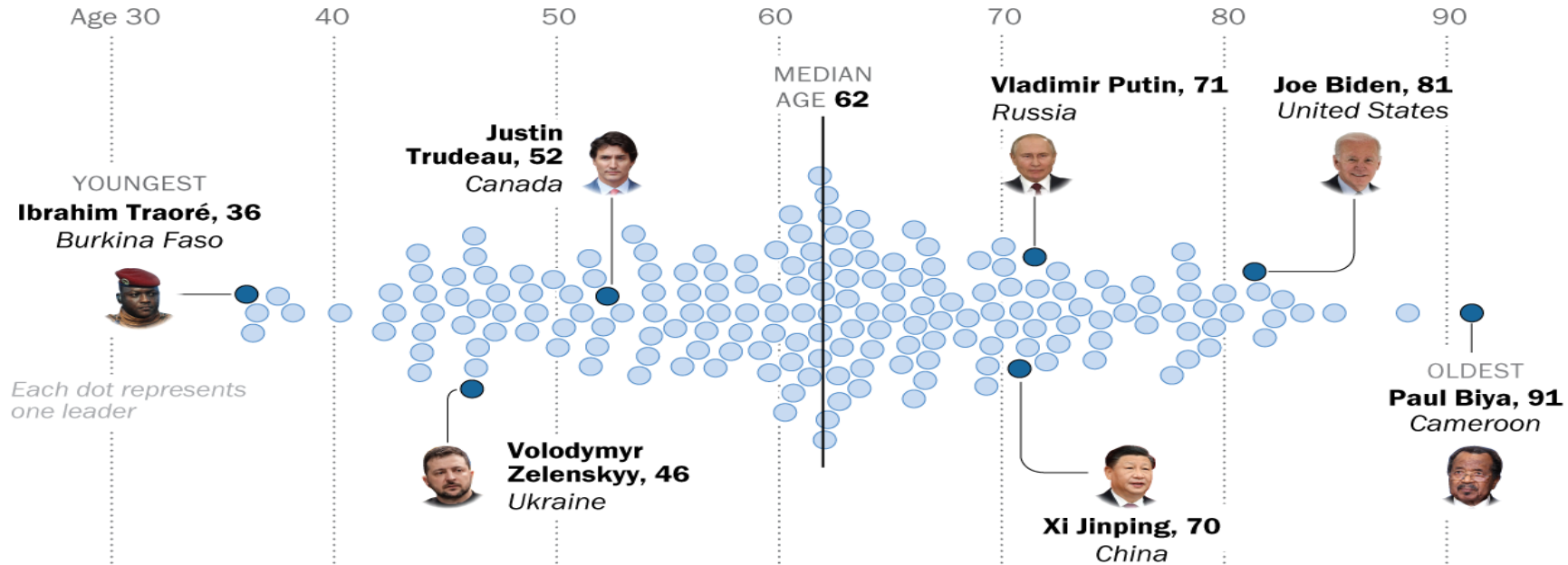
*Brookings Institute : William Frey, May 18, 2023- "New Voter Turnout Data

Most Global Leaders are in Their 50s & 60s-Ours are in their early 80s or late 70s

Very few are as old as Biden and Trump

Most global leaders are in their 50s and 60s

Country leader's age



Note: Figures are through May 1, 2024. Data is available for 187 of 193 UN member states.
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of government biographies and regional news articles.

The U.S. Has the World's Oldest Legislature

- Our House of Representatives is 8.3 years older than than the average of other Democracies.
- Our Senate is much older than our House with an average age of over 64.
- Meanwhile we have half as many Representatives under 40 as do other democracies.

Country	Chamber type	Average ag	% 30 or ur	% 40 or un	Under 45
Australia	Lower chamber	51.7	2.03	14.19	25
Austria	Lower chamber	47.29	7.65	27.87	43.72
Belgium	Lower chamber	46.1	3.33	28	54
Canada	Lower chamber	51.85	2.6	16.88	30.19
Denmark		45.65	7.82	34.64	47.49
Finland		47	3.5	29.5	44.5
France	Lower chamber	49.3	5.37	27.9	38.99
Germany	Lower chamber	47.3	8.83	28.94	41.98
Ireland	Lower chamber	48.5	3.75	18.75	41.25
Italy	Lower chamber	49.92	1.25	16.25	35
Japan	Lower chamber	55.53	0.22	6.02	17.2
Mexico	Lower chamber	48.05	5.2	28.6	44.8
Spain	Lower chamber	51.5	2	15.43	27.71
Sweden		46.7	6.59	28.94	43.84
Switzerland	Lower chamber	49.29	1.5	19	39
U. K.	Lower chamber	51	3.69	21.69	34
U. S.	Lower chamber	57.97	0.46	10.42	20.14
		49.7	3.9	21.9	37.0
Difference		8.3			

A Big Age Gap Between our Government and Our People

While our government is older than that of other democracies, our population is younger, giving us the largest age gap between the government and the people.

- **There is a 21.2-year age gap between the average member of Congress and the average U.S. citizen.**
- **In other democracies, the average gap is 7.4 years.**
- In Germany, it is only 2.3 years, meaning the people and their representatives are about the same age.
- With a 21.2-year age gap, our representatives are from a different generation than most of our citizens.
- This could be one of the reasons that many younger Americans, do not approve of our government.

	Population	Average Age of Legislators	Difference
U.S.	38.8	60	21.2
U.K.	40.6	55	14.4
Canada	42.4	54	11.6
France	42.4	52	9.6
Switzerland	46	51	7
Japan	49.5	56	6.5
Spain	46.3	52	5.7
Sweden	41	46.7	5.7
Belgium	41.9	45.6	3.7
Germany	46.7	49	2.3
Avg. other Countries			7.4

Congress Continues to Get Older

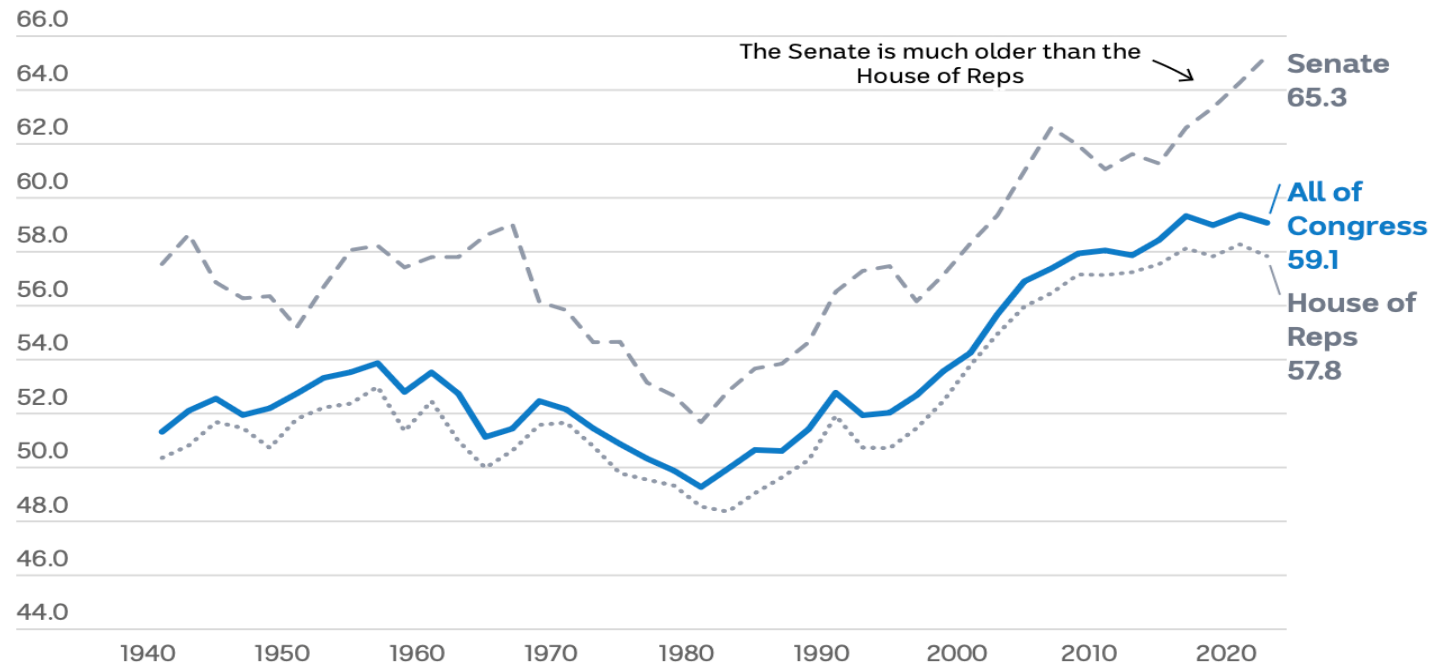
Since 1980, the average age of a U.S. Senator has increased from 51.7 to 65.3 years.

The average age of a U.S. Congressperson has increased from 48.1 to 57.8 years.

- The Senate has 18 members over 75 and only 2 under 40.
- The House has 37 members over 75 and only 5 under 35.

The median age of Congress has been climbing since the early 1980's

Median age of all members who served in a term, at the first day of that term



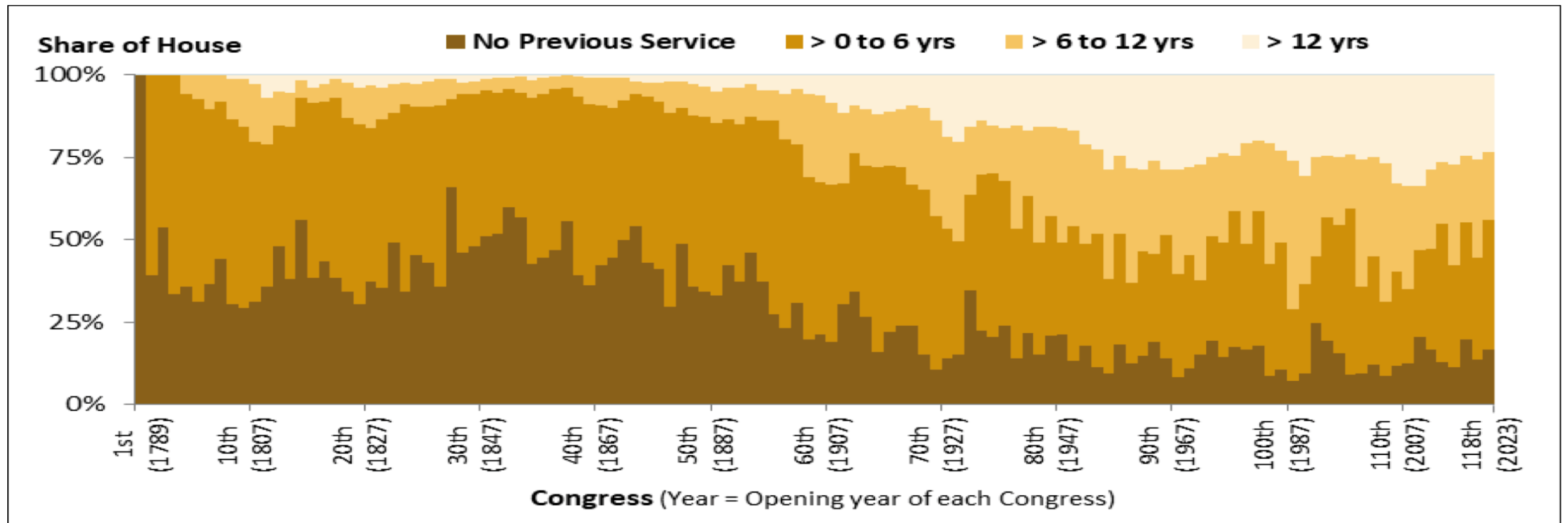
Politicians Have Created Ways to Remain in Office Longer

Our political leaders like the power and prestige of their jobs, so they figure out ways to stay in office longer.

- They gain seniority, tap money from lobbyists, and often have their districts gerrymandered, to protect their careers.
- It is not just one party gerrymandering the other, it is often one party gerrymandering younger candidates from its own party who want to run against established officeholders.
 - In 2001, Democrats moved a few houses so a younger candidate could not run for Congress against an established incumbent. The young candidate who was shut out was named Barak Obama.
 - In 2001, Democrats in N.Y. moved 9 houses, so a younger candidate could not run for State Senate. This young candidate who was shut out was named Hakeem Jeffries.
- By drawing districts to protect established incumbents and by gerrymandering younger candidates from running, the two parties ensure that there are few competitive elections and that established politicians remain in office.

House Members Are Serving Longer Tenures

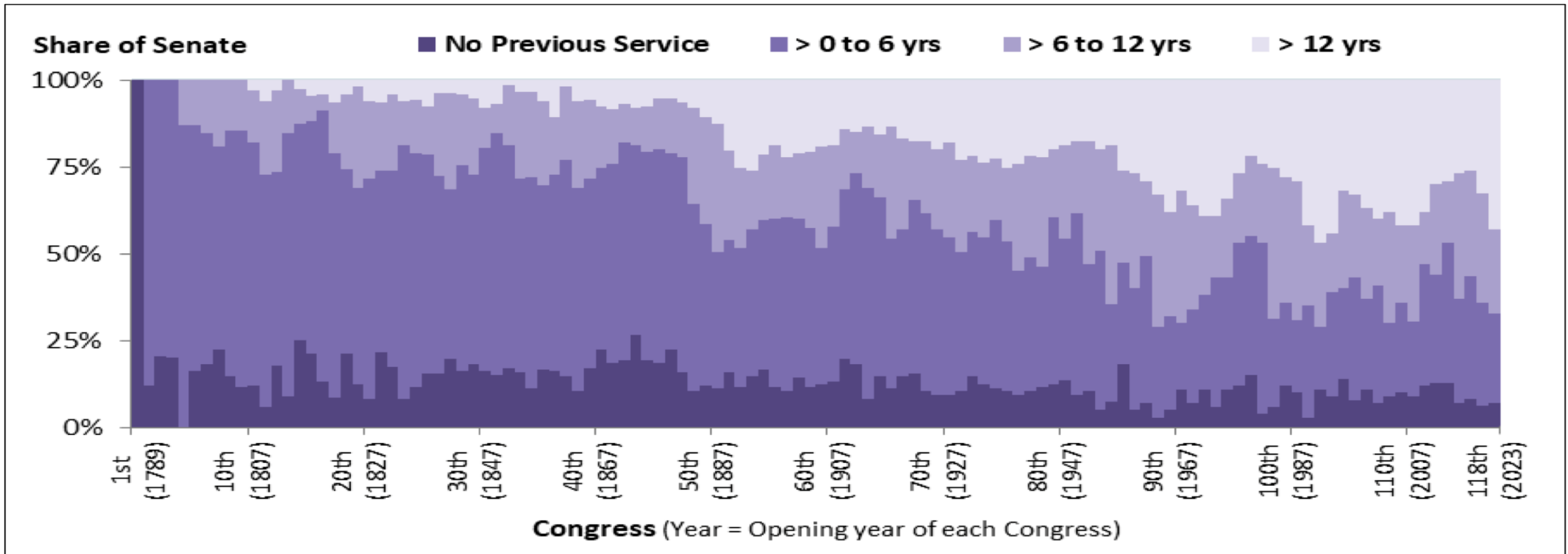
Figure 4. Distribution of Member Tenure, House of Representatives
1st through 118th Congresses



Sources: CRS analysis of *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*, ICPSR, and proprietary data. Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, and Carroll McKibbin, *Roster of United States Congressional Officeholders and Biographical Characteristics of Members of the United States Congress, 1789-1996: Merged Data* [computer file] 10th ICPSR ed. (Ann Arbor: MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [producer and distributor], 1997).

So Are Senators

Figure 5. Distribution of Member Tenure, Senate
1st through 118th Congresses



Sources: CRS analysis of *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*, ICPSR, and proprietary data. Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, and Carroll McKibbin, *Roster of United States Congressional Officeholders and Biographical Characteristics of Members of the United States Congress, 1789-1996: Merged Data* [computer file] 10th ICPSR ed. (Ann Arbor: MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [producer and distributor], 1997).

Some Representatives Seem To Serve Forever

- Look at the number of current politicians who have served more than 35 years.

49 years, 194 days	Chuck Grassley (S, H)	Republican	Iowa
47 years, 256 days	Ed Markey (S, H)	Democratic	Massachusetts
43 years, 194 days	Ron Wyden (S, H)	Democratic	Oregon
43 years, 194 days	Chuck Schumer (S, H)	Democratic	New York
43 years, 194 days	Hal Rogers (H)	Republican	Kentucky
43 years, 194 days	Chris Smith (H)	Republican	New Jersey
43 years, 57 days	Steny Hoyer (H)	Democratic	Maryland
41 years, 194 days	Dick Durbin	Democratic	Illinois
41 years, 194 days	Marcy Kaptur (H)	Democratic	Ohio
39 years, 194 days	Mitch McConnell (S)	Republican	Kentucky
37 years, 194 days	Ben Cardin (S, H)	Democratic	Maryland
37 years, 43 days	Nancy Pelosi (H)	Democratic	California
36 years, 12 days	Joe Biden (S)	Democratic	Delaware

How many people do you know who have held the same job for more than 35 years?

Longest Tenure for an Immediate Family?



Breaking the partisan gridlock

What is the longest tenure in Congress for one immediate family?

- 50 years
- 60 years
- 70 years
- 80 years
- Longer

91 Years

For the past 91 years, a Congressional district in Michigan has been represented by a Dingell.

- John Dingell Sr. was a Congressman from 1933 –1955. (22 years)
- John Dingell Jr. was a Congressman from 1956-2015 (59 years)
 - The longest serving representative in U.S. history.
- Debby Dingell (John Jr.'s wife) has been a Congresswomen since 2015 (9 years)



Why does this district even bother with elections?

Lifetime Appointments to the Supreme Court

Besides the United States, how many countries have no age or term limits for their Supreme Court?

- 1
- 10
- 20
- 30
- 40
- 50
- 60



Breaking the partisan gridlock

Only U.S. and Aruba have lifetime appointments.

- Other countries either have mandatory retirements or term limits.
 - Australia, Austria, Belgium, England, Japan, India, and other countries have retirement ages of 70 or younger. If this rule were in effect, Alito and Thomas would both be retired.
 - Many countries limit the length of service. Germany has a 12-year term. France, Italy and Spain have 9-year terms. In these countries, 5 of the 9 current justices would be retired.
- By having life-time appointments and no mandatory retirement age, the U.S. normally has the oldest Supreme Court of any developed country.



Imagine the Supreme Court as People Live Longer

Our Supreme Court is likely to get much older. According to David Fishbaum in the Harvard Business Review (2018):

- **“The average tenure of justices is likely to increase to 35 years... over the next century, compared with 17 years over the previous 100 years.”***
- That means there likely will be only another 25 appointees over the next 100 years, compared to 47 appointments in the previous 100 years.*
- **Can you imagine what the Supreme Court will look like when its average tenure is 35 years, and its average age is 85?**

Age Can Be A Real Problem

Age can be a real problem because people can suffer from physical and mental issues.

- Mike Kim, a pharmacist in Washington D.C., provided Alzheimer's medicines to members of Congress. As Kim stated
 - *“At first, it's cool, and then you realize...these are the people that are running the country,...It makes you kind of sit back and say, ‘Wow, they're making the highest laws of the land, and they might not even remember what happened yesterday.’”**
- If you listened to Senator Feinstein before she died or to Senator McConnell “freezing,” you can recognize signs of aging.

Older Leaders Miss Newer Trends

Besides health issues, there are questions of whether older representatives are equipped to focus on new trends and the needs of younger voters.

- People in their 70s and 80s have different perspectives than people in their 20s and 30s.
 - Octogenarians, Nancy Pelosi and Mitch McConnell, are setting policies for social media. Do Nancy and Mitch ever post on Tik Tok?
- People in their 70s and 80s are less likely to use AI (their staffs do), and understand the opportunities and threats presented by this new technology.
- Older members of Congress probably do not trade bitcoin (they have gold bars in their closet).
- Having an older government makes it more difficult to deal with the issues and interests of younger voters.
- A greater mix of people of different ages and experience would be beneficial.

Age- Current Leaders Vs. Founding Fathers

- The current leaders of our country average 75.8 years.
- Excluding Hakeem Jeffries and Mike Johnson, they average 81.5 years.
- How old were the Founding Fathers in 1776- excluding Ben Franklin?
 - 30
 - 40
 - 50
 - 60
 - 70

Age of Current U.S. Leaders	
	2024
Biden	81
Trump	78
McConnell	82
Pelosi	84
Schumer	74
Durbin	79
Jeffries	54
Johnson	52
Clyburn	84
Grassley	90
Average	75.8
Avg. Excluding Jeffries & Johnson	81.5

Younger than You Imagine

In 1776, the average age of our founding fathers was 34.1 years. Excluding Franklin, it was 30.1 years.

- **Jefferson was 33 when he drafted the Declaration of Independence.**
- **Hamilton, Madison, and Jay averaged 38 when they wrote the Constitution.**

The biggest problem with the Constitution is that it never occurred to these youngsters that 235 years later, all the kids would be gone, and government would be in the hands of long-time AARP members.

Age of Founding Fathers		Age of Current U.S. Leaders	
	1776		2024
John Adams	41	Biden	81
Jefferson	33	Trump	78
Franklin	70	McConnell	82
Madison	25	Pelosi	84
Monroe	18	Schumer	74
Washington	44	Durbin	79
Paine	39	Jeffries	54
Hamilton	19	Johnson	52
Jay	31	Clyburn	84
Marshall	21	Grassley	90
Avg.	34.1	Average	75.8
Avg. Excluding Franklin	30.1	Avg. Excluding Jeffries & Johnson	81.5

Life Expectancy in the 1700s

Many of you are probably saying, “Of course these leaders were young. Life expectancy in the 1700s was much shorter.

What was the average age at death of the Founding Fathers, excluding Hamilton, who was killed in a duel with Burr?

- 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80

Founding Fathers Lived Long Lives

Perhaps surprisingly, the Founding Fathers lived to 80.

- Adams lived till 90.
- Jefferson, Madison, Franklin, Marshall, and Jay all lived until their 80s.
- Only Washington died under 70.
- For the 51-year age difference between the Founding Fathers and our current leaders to be even, our current leaders would have to live to 131.5.
- Do you really want to see Mitch and Nancy running the country on our 300th anniversary in 2076?

Founding Fathers Death Age	
John Adams	90
Jefferson	83
Franklin	84
Madison	85
Monroe	73
Washington	67
Paine	72
Jay	83
Marshall	80
Avg.	80

CEOs of the Magnificent 7 Are Also Younger

The executives leading the Magnificent 7 stocks average 54 years old, 37.5 years younger than our political leaders.

- The argument for keeping older political leaders is that with experience they gain wisdom and judgement, but
- The people running Apple, Microsoft, Meta, Alphabet, Amazon, Nvidia, and Tesla seem to be doing OK— even if they are- compared to our government leaders, just kids.

Age of Manificent 7 CEOs		
Cook	Apple	63
Nadella	Microsoft	56
Huang	Nvidia	61
Zuckerberg	Meta	40
Pinchai	Alphabet	52
Jassy	Amazon	56
Musk	Tesla	53
Average		54

Age and Tenure Are Impacting Our Government

- The founding fathers had high approval ratings even though they were in their 30s.
- The leaders of the magnificent 7 stocks are very popular, even though they average 54.
- But our government leaders, who average over 80- are not doing as well.
- The American public is unified in recognizing that there is a problem– and they are also unified in recognizing that there are reasonably simple solutions.

Let's look at the approval numbers of the government.

Congress Has the Lowest Approval Rating Ever

**Only 16% of
Americans
approve of
the job
Congress is
doing.**

Congressional Job Approval

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

— % Approve



[Get the data](#) • [Download image](#)

GALLUP®

Yet Congress has a Reelection Rate of 95%

While Americans do not approve of their Congress, they reelect its members at an astounding rate.

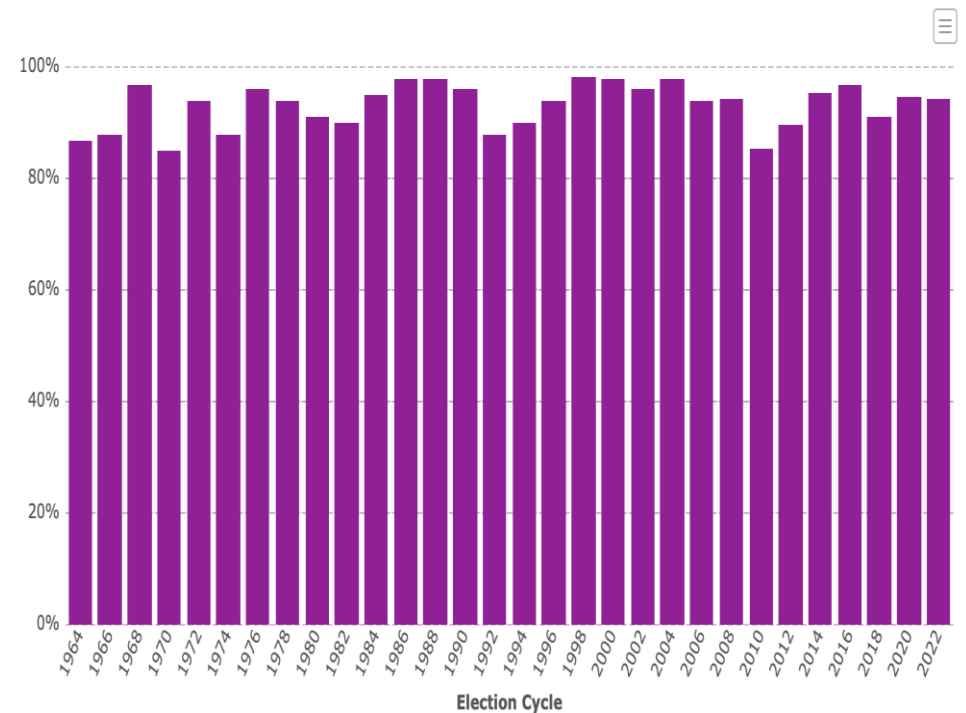
- In 4 of the past 5 elections, incumbents in Congress have averaged a reelection rate over 95%. *
- In 2022, the Senate reelection rate was 100%*

Incumbents almost always win primaries

- Since 2000, the percentage of incumbents winning in primaries was 99%. **
- Those few who lost, were those like Liz Cheney who stood against their party.

Why are people with such high disapproval constantly reelected? It is because the two parties set the rules so there are few competitive elections.

U.S. House Reelection Rates, 1964-2022



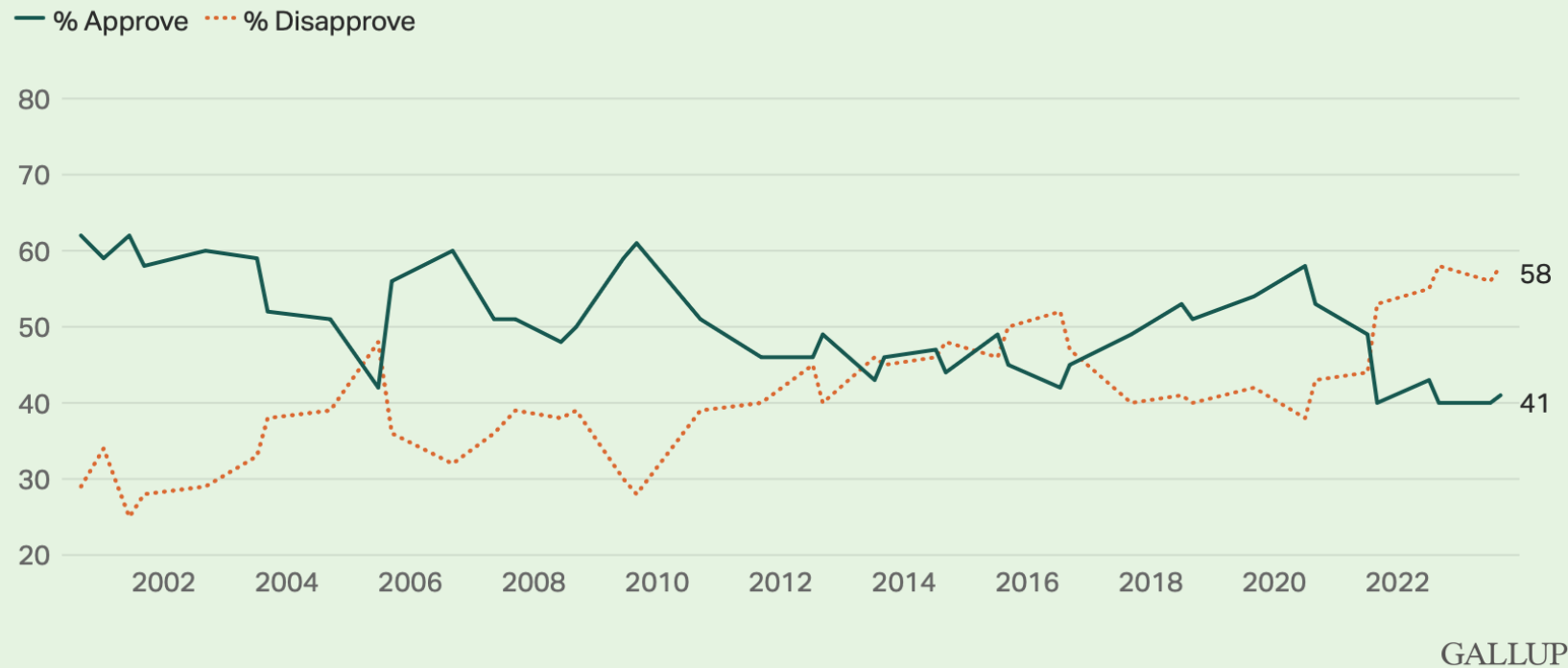
*open secrets, **The Center for Politics

Supreme Court Approval Ratings Drop From 62% to 36%

At the start of this century, the Supreme Court had a high approval rating.

According to a Five-Thirty Eight Poll on July 13, 2024, the **Approval rating has now dropped to 36%.***

Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Supreme Court is handling its job?



*Five Thirty Eight- 7/13/2024

How do Americans Feel About Term and Age Limits?

With Americans disapproving our Congress, our Supreme Court, our President, and our political dialog, it would be useful to look at how they feel about term limits and age limits, both of which could significantly impact the workings of our government



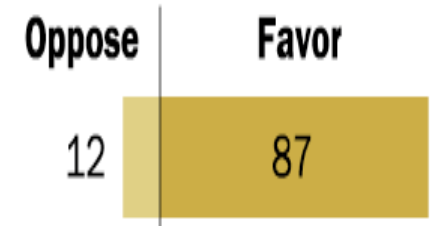
Americans Overwhelmingly Approve of Term Limits



- According to a Pew Research Poll on 9/19/2023, 87% of Americans favor term limits for Congress.
- 86% of Democrats and 90% of Republicans support these limits.

You can't get more unanimous or bipartisan than this.

Limiting the number of terms that members of Congress can serve



Older People Are More Supportive of Term Limits

Interestingly, older people are much more supportive of term limits including:

- 88% of those 55-64
- 91% of those 65-74
- 86% of those over 75

These are people who have watched Congress grow older and more tenured and who understand how long tenures can impact government.

They are also people who have had long careers themselves and understand how tenure can take its toll.

Support for House term limits, by age group

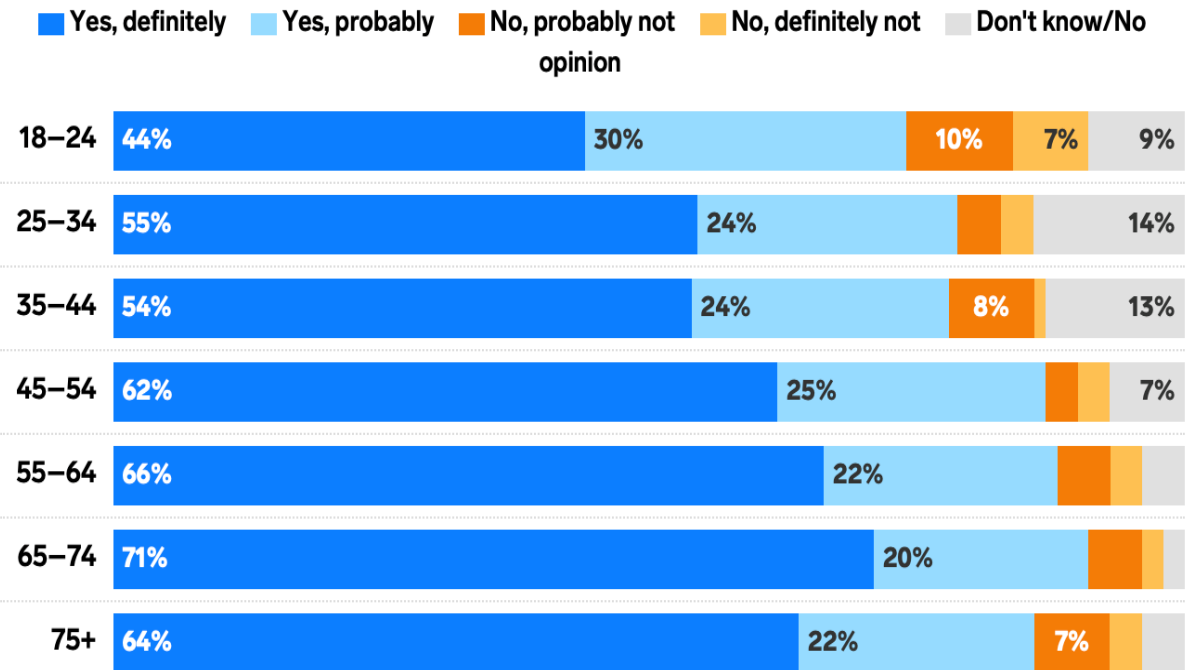


Chart: Tien Le/Insider • Source: Morning Consult/Insider

INSIDER

Americans Also Favor Age Limits

- In the 2023 Pew poll, 79% were in favor of putting a maximum age for office holders in Washington.
- 74% also favored age limits for the Supreme Court.
- In a 2022, CBS-YouGov poll, 73% favored age limits. This included 75% of Republicans and Independents and 71% of Democrats.
- 74% of these people thought the age limit should be 70 or under, which would eliminate 20% of the House and 36% of the Senate.



Americans Favor Maximum Ages for Congress and Judges

In a Business Insider/Morning Consult Poll, Maximum ages for Congress and Federal Judges came in second behind pilots and fourth behind police officers.

Few argue about pilots or police officers retiring at a specific age, why not the same rules for Congress and Judges?

Percent in favor of minimum and maximum age

AGE LIMITS FOR	IN FAVOR OF MAX. AGE	IN FAVOR OF MIN. AGE
Pilots	79%	78%
Member of Congress	75%	77%
Police Officer	73%	77%
Federal Judge	71%	81%
Truck Driver	64%	66%
Teacher	40%	58%
Warehouse Employees	37%	40%
Accountants	31%	45%
Farmer	21%	24%

Table: Tien Le/Insider • Source: Morning Consult/Insider

Term Limits Are not a Radical Idea

Many parts of our government already employ term limits.

- Our President is limited to 8 years.
- 37 States have term limits for their Governors. (termlimits.com)
 - 23 states limit governors to two consecutive 4-year terms.
 - 3 states limit governors to 2 consecutive 4-years term with a one-term pause between terms
 - 1 state limits Governors to two consecutive 4-year terms with a 2-term pause between terms.
 - 9 states limit Governors to 2 consecutive 4-year terms in their lifetime.
 - 1 state limits Governors to one 4-year term.
- 16 States have term limits for their legislatures, usually 8 or 12 years.
- 24 Countries, including Italy, Germany and France, have term limits for Supreme Court Justices

If term limits work for the President, Governors, and other officials, why shouldn't they be more widely applied?

Term and Age Limits Pros & Cons

We prefer term limits to age limits. We believe that tenure is a bigger problem than age and that some older people are still in excellent physical and mental shape.

- There is also slightly more support for term limits 87% than for age limits 79%.
- We do not necessarily need both. Term limits should also limit some of the older people. Age limits will limit some of the longer tenured people.
- For the Supreme Court, both term limits and age limits are likely to require a Constitutional amendment.
- For Congress, term limits will require a Constitutional amendment.
- Age limits may present the same challenge, except it is also possible that states could enact age limits for their own representatives, which might negate the need for a Constitutional amendment.

Let's review the two alternatives.

Term Limits Are A Reasonable Goal

One method of limiting the tenure of elected officials, creating more competitive elections, limiting gerrymandering, reducing the power of money, and having a government that reflects the population as a whole instead of just older and wealthier people; is to institute term limits.

- In term limits, representatives can only serve for a specific number of years. This does not mean that when they are term limited, they will be out of work. Former Senators and Congresspeople rarely have to look for jobs.
- But it does mean that they will not be in their job for life. (Joe Biden was elected to Congress in November 1971.).



The Benefits of Term Limits

Term limits, of an appropriate length, should have some significant benefits. They should:

- Allow office holders to gain experience without becoming stale in their jobs.
- Lead to more competitive elections, as long-term incumbents are forced to retire.
- Limit gerrymandering, as long-term leaders will not need to be defended.
- Reduce the power of money, since dark pools cannot keep supporting the same candidate.
- Lead to some younger elected officials, as long-term incumbents are forced to retire.
- Improve political dialog, as the new candidates advance new positions.

The challenge in thinking about term limits is how to balance the value of experience with the costs of having a leadership that is too entrenched.

Term Limits- Best Length

In creating term limits, we need to balance the need for experienced legislators with the need for increased competition and younger representatives.

- Some legislators want very strict term limits.
 - In 2023, Ted Cruz proposed a Constitutional amendment with term limits of 2 terms for Senator (12 years) and 3 terms for the House of Representatives (6 years).
 - Interestingly, Cruz is currently running for a 3rd term. If his amendment had been passed, he would have been forced into retirement.
- We believe this is too short a time and that it sacrifices people with experience from remaining in government.
- **Our recommendation is a total of 18 years in Congress. This can be 3 terms as Senator, 9 terms for the House or a combination, and 18 years on the Supreme Court.**
- **18 years for each of these jobs would provide for a balance between experience and new, younger candidates.**

How We Can Get Term Limits Implemented

There are two ways to get Terms Limits implemented- both require Constitutional Amendments— and one will never happen.

- A 2/3 vote in the House and the Senate followed by majority votes in 38 state legislatures.
- This is a non-starter. No matter what the people think, our Representatives are not going to vote themselves out of a job.
 - How many of you have ever voted to fire yourself?

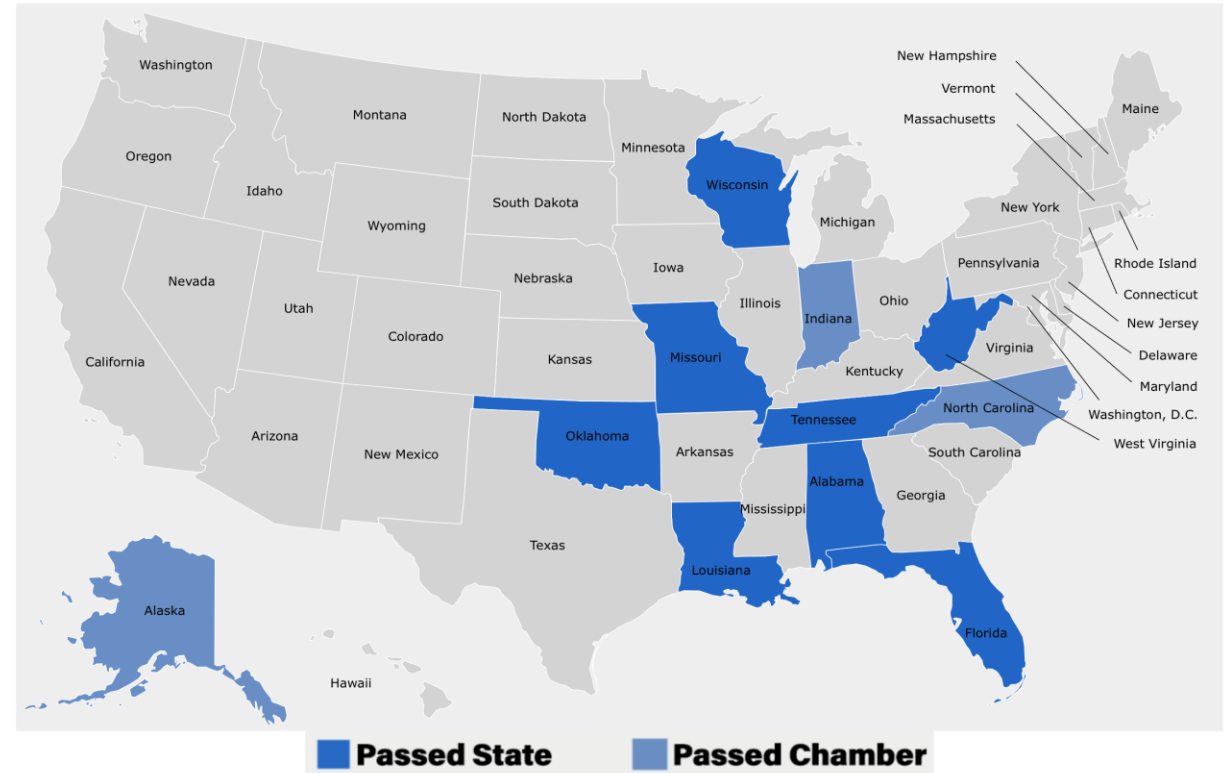
The second way involves taking the decision away from Washington.

- Under Article V of the Constitution, state legislatures may create a convention to enact a constitutional amendment supporting term limits.
- If 34 state legislatures pass such a bill, we can have a Term Limits Convention.

States Supporting Term Limits for Congress

Many think enacting term limits is impossible, but interestingly 11 states have already acted.

- 8 states have passed laws calling for a Constitutional Convention for Term Limits.
- 3 More states have laws that have passed one of their chambers.
- 10 of these 11 states are bright red and one, Wisconsin, has a Legislature dominated by Republicans.
- **Why do Red states support term limits while Blue states oppose them?**
- **Why did a Republican Senator propose term limits with no Democratic support?**



Term Limits Will Solve Many of the Problems

Term Limits will solve many of the problems.

- 18 years in the Senate, the House, and the Supreme Court will ensure that we have experienced and knowledgeable leaders.
- However, this limitation will offer more competitive elections, more younger candidates, and less centralized power. .
- With 18 years on the Supreme Court, there will be less panic and polarization over individual rulings.
- Younger people will not feel as detached from government, because more members will look and sound like them.



Age Limits For Congress

Term Limits will create more competitive elections and younger representatives, but it is also worth considering age limits.

There are two ways to create age limits for Congress.

1. Congress can pass a Constitutional Amendment for all of Congress
2. States can pass Constitutional Amendments for their own Representatives.

The first option is never going to happen. Age is a complex issue, and different people will have different views on what is too old, but current politicians like Nancy Pelosi, Mitch Connell, Chuck Grassley, and others are not going to force themselves into retirement.

However, it would appear the individual states do have the power to set their own rules.

North Dakota- First for Age Limits

In June 2024, voters in North Dakota passed a Constitutional Amendment on congressional age limits. The law bans anyone who would reach 81 before the end of their term from running for the Senate or the House of Representatives. *

- Both of North Dakota's Senators, who are under 70, suggested that the law would not pass constitutional muster.
- However, the Supreme Court has increasingly ruled in favor of states rights on subjects such as abortion and others, so logic would indicate that states also have the right to set age limits on their Congressional delegations.
- We will have to wait to see how this law impacts elections in North Dakota, but it does offer a vehicle for making our Congress younger.

Age Limits For Presidents- Difficult to Achieve

Age Limits for Presidents is a much more complicated issue.

- States will not be able to enact individual age limits.
- At a minimum a Constitutional convention will be required, similar to the conventions that passed the 22nd and 25th Amendments.
- Given our divided politics, it seems unlikely that such an amendment could be passed.
- However, if we have term limits and age limits for Congress, we will likely have more younger political leaders and hence we are more likely to have younger Presidents.

Why Don't We Have Age Limits for Congress and the Supreme Court?

When people bring up the subject of age limits for Congress or the Supreme Court, many complain about agism. However, when did you hear someone protesting retirement ages for:

- Generals or Flag Officers at 64—the current average age of the U.S. Senate. *
- Airline pilots at 64** - also the current age of the U.S. Senate.
- Air Traffic Controllers- 56 with exceptions 61. You do not want an 83-year-old to be taking a nap while flying or routing your plane.
- Judges in Maryland, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Minnesota, Michigan, and Florida at 70 and in Oregon at 75.— if mandatory retirement is good for these states, why shouldn't it be good for the country as a whole?

Is experience less important for Generals, airline pilots, air traffic controllers, and judges in states than it is for members of Congress?

Term Limits and Age Limits for Congress and the Supreme Court Can Solve our Problems

We believe that enacting term limits and age limits for Congress and the Supreme Court will solve some of our problems and give the U.S. a younger and more successful government.

- For Congress: Term limits will produce more competitive elections and lead to a younger group of legislators. With legislators no longer serving 40 years or more, power will be more evenly distributed. More younger people will have the chance to influence policy and move to leadership positions.
- With modest age limits, the process will be further enhanced.
- For the Supreme Court, the biggest benefit of term limits will be to reduce the risk of a small group of people serving decades.
- These two steps are essential if we are to reduce the duopoly of the two parties, increase bipartisanship, and align our government with that of our people.

Conundrum-Political Parties- Their Supporters-and Limits

Term and Age Limits present an interesting political conundrum for the two parties.

- Republicans in the Senate have supported term limits.
- Red states and states dominated by Republican legislatures have also supported term limits.
- A bright red State, North Dakota, is supporting age limits.
- Yet, the people who would benefit most for these steps, the younger voters, overwhelmingly support Democrats, while older voters support Republicans.
- **Why is the party of the younger people against age and term limits, while the party of the older people is for them?**

A majority of voters under 30 align with the Democrats; Republicans have the edge among those over 60

% of registered voters who are ...

	Dem/ Lean Dem	Rep/ Lean Rep	Diff.
Ages 18-24*	66	34	D+32
25-29	64	32	D+32
30-39	55	42	D+13
40-49	50	47	D+3
50-59	47	50	R+3
60-69	43	53	R+10
70-79	46	51	R+5
80+	39	58	R+19

* Ages 18-24 have a relatively small sample size of 181, for an effective sample size of 93 (margin of error of +/- 10.2 percentage points at 95% confidence).

Note: Based on registered voters. Statistically significant differences in **bold**. No answer responses not shown.

Source: 2023 American Trends Panel annual profile survey conducted Aug. 7-27, 2023.

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Conclusion

Our government badly needs term and/or age limits.

- We have by far the oldest government in the world.
- Our government keeps getting older.
- As a result, in Congress there are few competitive elections, rules are set by people in their 80s, and younger voters are turned off.
- The situation is especially dire in the Supreme Court where justices are appointed for life, with no way of removing them, no matter how old and senile they become.
- The most effective manner of implementing term limits is for states to vote for a Constitutional convention that will be able to set term limits for all branches of government.
- Congress could also try to pass term limits for the Supreme Court.
- The most effective way to set age limits is for other states to follow the lead of North Dakota and pass Constitutional amendments for their own delegations.
 - These amendments could end up being rejected, but they are worth a try.

We need to make our government younger and our elections more competitive. These are steps that we should embrace.