

Testimony of Norman Olsen – HJR24-1024

April 22, 2024

Good afternoon! My name is Norman Olsen. I've been citizen in Colorado for 52 years. I currently reside in Centennial, Colorado.

Colorado voters have approved term limit measures four times in statewide votes: Statewide offices were term limited in 1990, Congressional Representatives in 94, Colorado legislators in 96, and the term limit pledge was approved in 98. Clearly, the citizens of Colorado are firm believers that term limits are helpful in maintaining responsible government.

As you know, in 1995 the Supreme Court ruled that the states cannot modify the qualifications of members of Congress. That decision voided congressional term limit measures in 23 states. Of course, Colorado was one of those 23 states.

Since that time, not less than 33 term limit measures have been introduced into Congress, all without success. It's very clear, the career politicians in Washington DC are not going to vote for limits on their careers.

Given that dysfunction in Washington DC is now reaching epic proportions, I'm confident that this call for a Convention of the States would pass by a large margin if it were on the November ballot. HOWEVER, the Constitution says you folks have to make that call. So please, PLEASE, do so. We're running out of time and money.

I thank you for your attention.

Information in case of questions:

- 1990 Amendment 5, Term Limits for four state wide officers, passed 71% to 29%
- 1994 Amendment 17, Term limits for Congress and Board of Education, passed 51%/49%
- 1995 U. S. Term Limits vs Thornton et al, US Supreme Court, 5-4 decision. Thornton was an official in Arkansas
- 1996 Amendment 12, term limits for legislature, passed 54% to 46%
- 1998 Amendment 18, add term limit pledge to the ballot, passed 50.3%/49.6%
- 2006 Amendment 40, term limits for judges, wisely failed 43%/57%, left retention system in place
- Last congressional term limit action: US H.J.Res.11 – Introduced January 9, 2023; 105 co-sponsors; died in Committee 17-19, (https://youtu.be/2iN_venNJJ4 @ 3:27:55).
- US fiscal year 2024 deficit alone will be \$2.4+ trillion, greater than the entire US debt as of 1987.