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—U.S. Term Limits President Philip Blumel.

U.S. Term Limits Urges Californians to Reject Proposed Amendment That Would Double the Length of Assembly & Senate Terms

January 25th, 2010, Fairfax, VA—U.S. Term Limits President Philip Blumel today warned California residents that a proposed state constitutional amendment “will lengthen the terms that can be served in either House of the Legislature.”

“Lengthening the terms to 12 years in either House will double the time members can serve in the Assembly and increase by one-third the time in the Senate,” Blumel explained, adding, “That means legislative turnover will decrease and the re-election rate for Assemblymen and women and Senators will increase.”

“If this amendment passes, Californians would see more entrenched career politicians in Sacramento putting the state into financial ruin, not less,” Blumel said.

Blumel said that the wording of the amendment “is quite similar to Proposition 93, and is confusing to voters. It is framed in such a way that residents will think that it reduces, rather than lengthens, a politician’s time in each chamber.”

Blumel urged residents not to sign the petition, [Proposed Initiative 09-0048](#), “so that it will not appear on the ballot in November.”

The initiative is being sponsored by Lance H. Olson of Olson Hagel & Fishburn LLP. Olson serves as general counsel to the California Democratic Party.

Term limits were originally enacted in California in 1990. In 2002, when term limits opponents proposed Proposition 45, Californians defeated it, and in 2008 defeated Proposition 93.

Blumel said that Californians “had to remain vigilant to protect their state from career politicians in the Sacramento establishment.”

The current law places three two-year terms on the State House and two four-year terms on the State Senate, and took effect in 1996 and 1998, respectively.

Blumel said that the new amendment would be “just the first step in chipping away at California term limits,” saying that lawmakers would return once again afterward to “finish the job and fully repeal the popular law.”

Blumel said the initiative would fail regardless, concluding, "The people of California do not need another wasteful ballot process that will most assuredly be defeated. Californians have time and again affirmed their support for term limits, and they will do so again if forced to," Blumel concluded.

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