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U.S. Term Limits Blasts Proposed Amendment that Would Repeal Ohio Term Limits

January 13th, 2010, Fairfax, VA—U.S. Term Limits President Philip Blumel today urged the Ohio General Assembly to reject a constitutional amendment that “would eliminate term limits in Ohio and extend the time in office for scores of elected officials.”

“Representative Tyrone Yates has chosen to defy the will of Ohioans, who in 1992 voted to limit their legislators’ terms with 66 percent of the vote,” said Blumel.

[HJR 8, a bill that would repeal term limits](#), was introduced by Representative Tyrone Yates (D-Cincinnati) late last year. Yates is in his final year of service, and so far has no cosponsors for this bill, which would require a 3/5 vote from each chamber to qualify for the ballot.

“It is obvious that Yates cares more about keeping his power than answering to his constituents,” said Blumel. “U.S. Term Limits will not soon forget, and we’ll make certain the people of Ohio never forget.”

“It’s the same old story: once legislators are term-limited, they decide to repeal term limits provisions,” Blumel contended. “The motive is always the same.”

Term limits were originally enacted in Ohio in 1992. The current law places four two-year terms on the State House and two four-year terms on the State Senate, and took effect in 2000.

The House currently has 46 Republicans and 53 Democrats. 4 Republicans and 10 Democrats are on their last term, and 8 are on their second to last term from each party. The Senate currently has 21 Republicans and 12 Democrats. Of these, 8 Republicans and 2 Democrats are on their final terms in office.

“Instead of focusing on their own job security, Ohio lawmakers should be more concerned about creating jobs in [a state where unemployment is 10.6 percent](#),” Blumel said, pointing to information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

“These politicians need to learn how to move on. The only way they’ll get that message is beating back every attempt to repeal term limits,” Blumel added.

Blumel called upon Ohioans statewide to express their outrage to Representative Yates “for introducing an amendment on the ballot that the people will undoubtedly resoundingly reject.”

Blumel also called upon residents to express their support for term limits to their individual representatives.

“Ballot initiatives invariably cost the taxpayers money that need not be spent in these hard economic times,” said Blumel, concluding, “It is up to the people of Ohio to let members of the Assembly know they should be more interested in the job security of Ohioans than extending their terms of office.”

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