

**4. Term Limits:** An incumbent U. S. representative or senator, blessed with name familiarity and sometimes the help of the franking privilege (although there are limitation as to what it can be used for) has an enormous advantage when up for re-election. In consequence, many politicians are repeatedly re-elected as their lesser known opponent struggles to achieve equal name recognition, and to make their views as well known as the office holder.

***Possible Solution:*** Placing limits on the number of consecutive terms that an office holder can hold in that office would create greater turnover in congress and create a more even contest in cases where an incumbent must give up his seat. How many consecutive terms should be permitted is a matter for debate. I believe that ten consecutive terms for representatives and four for senators could be used as a starting point for discussion. This would enable a sizable number of congressional veterans to return each year which would assure the continuation of institutional memory and at the same time introduce fresh thinking in congress every two years as well as more competitive races.

One question is whether politicians who must leave the seats due to term limits would be restricted from running for other offices, e.g., move from the house to the senate, from the senate to the house, or from a national office to a State or local office. I personally see little reason why not. In fact, I would encourage it.

I suppose another question is whether politicians who are compelled to vacate their seats due to term limits should be allowed to run again for the same seats after sitting out a term or two. This is an arguable matter although I see no reason why not.