

To the office of U.S. Representative Johnny Olszewski

Re: HJRES 174 (119th Congress), Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide for term limits for justices of the Supreme Court. • Latest action (2026-05-04): Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.
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Supreme Court Term Limits Constitutional Amendment

The measure, as described from the official record: To impose term limits on Supreme Court justices by amending Article III to replace life tenure with fixed terms, promoting rotation and accountability.

THE PROPOSAL

This joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to limit Supreme Court justices to a single 18-year nonrenewable term, staggered for smooth transitions.

Section 1: Justices of the Supreme Court shall hold office for one term of 18 years from the date of their commission. No justice may serve more than one term.

Section 2: Terms are staggered so that the term of one justice expires every two years on January 1. The President nominates a replacement for Senate confirmation within the year prior to expiration. Vacancies before term end are filled for the remainder plus a full new term.

Section 3: This article applies only to justices commissioned after ratification. Incumbent justices retain tenure during good behavior until resignation, retirement, or removal.

Section 4: Congress may enforce this article through laws on term administration, nominations, and transitions. Ratification by three-fourths of states within seven years.

OPERATIVE PROVISIONS (VFA PROPOSAL)

Funding Source	Existing congressional appropriations for legislative operations
Funding Amount	\$0 additional
Sunset Years	7 years
Oversight Body	Archivist of the United States (National Archives)
Enforcement Mechanism	Ratification by 38 state legislatures or conventions, certified by Archivist
Effective Date	Upon Archivist certification

CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS

- Article V (proposing amendments by 2/3 Congress)

- Article III, Section 1 (altering judicial tenure during good behavior)

WHY BOTH SIDES CAN BACK IT (VFA'S ASSESSMENT)

Honors Democratic priorities of judicial accountability and reform to counter long-term ideological majorities; honors Republican priorities of term limits, fresh perspectives, and checks on unaccountable lifetime power.

Values for America is a nonpartisan, constitution-first SI think tank. This brief is informational. It is a policy proposal, not law, and it does not support or oppose any candidate or party. Full analysis and sources: <https://www.valuesforamerica.com/solutions/26> · Methodology: <https://www.valuesforamerica.com/methodology>