

NEVADA

BALLOT QUESTIONS

1994



A compilation of ballot questions which will appear
on the November 8, 1994, Nevada
general election ballot

Issued by
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Secretary of State

QUESTION NO. 8

An Initiative Relating to Term Limits for Federal Officers

CONDENSATION (ballot question)

Shall the Nevada Constitution be amended to establish term limits for the offices of U.S. Representative in Congress and U.S. Senator?

Yes..... ☐

No..... ☐

EXPLANATION

The Nevada Constitution currently places no limit on the number of terms to which Nevada U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators can be elected. This amendment would limit U.S. Representatives from Nevada to serving six (6) years or three (3) terms in office. U.S. Senators from Nevada would be limited to serving twelve (12) years or two (2) terms in office. The limits apply as of December 31, 1996, but do not take effect until 24 other states have similar measures.

ARGUMENT FOR PASSAGE

Proponents argue that passage will reduce the power of the seniority system in Congress so that all members of Congress, whether they are new or old, will have the same amount of power. Serving as a member of Congress will no longer be a career, since being a Senator will be limited to 12 years and being a Congressman will be limited to 6 years. This amendment will provide a more level playing field for Senators and Congressmen. Passage may lessen the power of lobbyists and special interest groups because these elected officials will only be in office for a limited amount of time. Members of Congress would have the opportunity to focus on the issues instead of reelection. Proponents argue that members of Congress will become more responsive to the voters and taxpayers. Over time, a greater number of Nevadans would be allowed to serve in Congress.

ARGUMENT AGAINST PASSAGE

Opponents argue that the current system allows members of Congress to be reelected on the basis of accountability and effective performance. Voters already have the power to limit the terms of members of Congress. Experienced members of Congress will not be allowed to run for reelection; nor will members who have done a good job and been responsive to the voters. The seniority system in Congress that rewards experience will be nullified. Continuity of programs could be lost. If a Senator is elected to a second term or a Congressman to a third term, that member of Congress will not be accountable to the voters during that term, since that member of Congress cannot be reelected.

FISCAL NOTE

Fiscal Impact-No. The proposal to amend the Nevada Constitution would limit the terms of a United States Senator or Representative in Congress. The proposal would have no adverse fiscal impact.

FULL TEXT OF THE MEASURE

Initiative to Limit Terms of United States Senators and Representative In Congress

The People of the State of Nevada do enact as follows:

Section 1. Article 2 of the constitution of the State of Nevada is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

Sec. 10. 1. No person is eligible to have his name placed on a ballot for election as a Representative in Congress if at the end of the current term of that office he will have served, or would have served but for his resignation from that office, as a Representative in Congress from any district of this state, after December 31, 1996, for three full terms or a total of 6 years, whichever is completed first.

2. No person is eligible to have his name placed on a ballot for election as a United States Senator if at the end of the current term of that office he will have served, or would have served but for his resignation from that office, as a United States Senator from this state, after December 31, 1996, for two full terms or a total of 12 years, whichever is completed first. The governor shall not appoint as United States Senator any person ineligible to have his name placed on the ballot under this subsection.

3. The legislature shall provide by law that the name of any person whom this section makes ineligible to have his name placed upon the ballot may be written in by a registered voter, and for the counting of the votes so written in.

4. This section does not become effective until it is proclaimed by the secretary of state, or determined by a district court of this state upon the petition of any registered voter, that at least 24 other states have limited the duration of service of their respective Representatives in Congress and United States Senators.