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February 19, 2020

The Honorable Dave Yost
Ohio Attorney General
30 E. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Via Hand Delivery


Re: The Lifetime General Assembly Term Limits Amendment

Dear Attorney General Yost:

On behalf of my clients, Ohioans for Legislative Term Limits and petition committee members Willa Evans, Brian Steel, and Brian Dean, and pursuant to R.C. 3519.01(A), I am hereby filing with your office a petition to approve a summary of a constitutional amendment to be proposed by initiative petition titled the Lifetime General Assembly Term Limits Amendment. The petition contains approximately 2,461 signatures on 264 part-petitions and the summary and full text of the amendment to be proposed. A chart containing the number of part-petitions and signatures from each county are attached to this letter.

Please contact me at 614-263-7000 or dmtigue@electionlawgroup.com if you have any questions. Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Donald J. McTigue

Encls.

INITIATIVE PETITION

To the Attorney General of Ohio: Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code § 3519.01(A), the undersigned electors of the State of Ohio, numbering in excess of one thousand, hereby submit to you the full text of a proposed Amendment to the Ohio Constitution and a summary of the same.

TITLE

Lifetime General Assembly Term Limits Amendment

SUMMARY

This amendment would amend existing Article II, Section 2 of the Ohio Constitution, to prohibit any person from taking or holding the office of State Senator or of State Representative pursuant to election or appointment if as of the date that person takes office pursuant to that election or appointment the number of years in the term or unexpired term to which that person is elected or appointed, when added to the years that person has served in the general assembly as either State Senator or as State Representative or in any combination of these two offices would exceed sixteen years. Only years of service beginning on or after January 1, 2021 would be considered in determining an individual's eligibility to take or hold office.

The amendment would repeal existing language prohibiting persons from holding the office of State Senator for a period longer than two successive terms of four years unless the terms as State Senator are separated by a period of four or more years, and prohibiting persons from holding the office of State Representative for a period longer than four successive terms of two years unless the terms as State Representative are separated by a period of four or more years. The amendment would also repeal existing language defining how service for part of a term of office affects the eligibility of an individual to hold office under the existing (to be repealed) language limiting terms of office.

COMMITTEE TO REPRESENT THE PETITIONERS

The following persons are designated as a committee to represent the petitioners in all matters relating to the petition or its circulation:

Willa Evans
2504 West 6th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Brian Steel
1570 Oakview Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43235

Brian Dean
1455 Keiser Road
Waverly, Ohio 45690

FULL TEXT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Be it Resolved by the People of the State of Ohio that Article II of the Ohio Constitution is hereby amended to add the following language to Section 2 shown underlined below, and to repeal the existing language shown by strikethrough. Current language that is not changed appears without underline or strikethrough:

Election and terms of legislators

§2 Representatives shall be elected biennially by the electors of the respective House of Representatives districts; their term of office shall commence on the first day of January next thereafter and continue two years.

Senators shall be elected by the electors of the respective Senate districts; their terms of office shall commence on the first day of January next after their election. All terms of senators which commence on the first day of January, 1969 shall be four years, and all terms which commence on the first day of January, 1971 shall be four years. Thereafter, except for the filling of vacancies for unexpired terms, senators shall be elected to and hold office for terms of four years.

No person shall be eligible to take or hold the office of State Senator or of State Representative pursuant to election or appointment if, as of the date that person takes office pursuant to that election or appointment, the number of years in the term or unexpired term to which that person is elected or appointed when added to the years that person has served as either State Senator or as State Representative or in any combination of these two offices would exceed a total period of sixteen years. Only years of service beginning on or after January 1, 2021 shall be considered in determining an individual's eligibility to take or hold office.

~~No person shall hold the office of State Senator for a period longer than two successive terms of four years. No person shall hold the office of State Representative for a period longer than four successive terms of two years. Terms shall be considered successive unless separated by a period of four or more years. Only terms beginning on or after January 1, 1993 shall be considered in determining an individual's eligibility to hold office.~~

~~In determining the eligibility of an individual to hold office in accordance with this article, (A) time spent in an office in fulfillment of a term to which another person was first elected shall not be considered provided that a period of at least four years passed between the time, if any, in which the individual previously held that office, and the time the individual is elected or appointed to fulfill the unexpired term; and (B) a person who is elected to an office in a regularly scheduled general election and resigns prior to the completion of the term for which he or she was elected, shall be considered to have served the full term in that office.~~