



## Term Limits: Is It Time?

Q3 2024

Description: Incumbents in office usually win re-election, election after election. Given the difficulty of voting incumbents out of office, there have been proposals to limit their time in office, some according to reaching a retirement age and others to a maximum number of terms (such as the US President is constitutionally limited to ten years). Are term limits a good idea or not?

Estimated time: 1.5 hours

### (1) Getting acquainted and comfortable

5 - 10 min.

#### Welcome

- Thank you for coming...
- We are a part of The Great Reset, which was born out of a shift we're seeing in our country. We have been in a place where we don't tend to speak 'beyond our bubbles' and across perspectives. The Great Reset has been opening up a grey space for such conversations since 2018. You are now part of keeping the conversation going and we thank you.

#### The Pillars of The Great Reset

- To share our own thoughts and perspectives with humility
- To learn from others and listen with respect

#### Ground Rules

- Every comment is valid and deserving of respect
- We show respect by speaking one at a time, putting our phones on silent and staying engaged, even when we are not speaking
- In the interest of time, I may cut in to ask you to 'top-line' something if we need to move on. This means simply offer up a synopsis of your thoughts and speak in bullets, not paragraphs

#### Confidentiality

I would like a verbal from everyone that you are here of your own volition and out of respect for one another I would ask you to keep what others say in this room unless they give you permission otherwise. (go around and get verbal agreement). Further, you agree to adhere to the principles outlined already: to deliver your perspectives bound to the principles of respect, to **listen with humility and offer grace to others who are sharing this space.**



### Consent

If recording is being used remind everyone that it is and if they change their mind we will respectfully not use their name or likeness in anyway.

Otherwise in being here and having agreed to being recorded we may use your words or likeness in social media or other posts as it is important to share people having respectful conversations. If they are not comfortable with that they can simply request their likeness not be used at this time.

### Personal Introductions

Please share your name, where you live, and how old you are.



## **(2) Term limits and length of service**

**30 - 35 min.**

- Some term limits already exist, For example, the 22nd Amendment limits the US President to two terms or 10 years if they also served a partial term of less than two years. 36 states limit their governor to two terms, while Virginia has a 1-term limit. Sixteen states have term limits for their legislatures.  
How do you feel about these length of service term limits?
- What are good reasons for these types of term limits? Probe for changes in the influence of money in government, elections and politics.
- What are good reasons to not have these types of term limits? Probe for a loss in institutional knowledge by legislators, ceding more power to appointed bureaucracies and to lobbyists.
- Would length of service term limits impact how legislators and governors act in office? Why or why not?

## **(3) Term limits and retirement age**

**20 – 25 min.**

- According to the Pew Research Center , 79% of Americans favor maximum age limits for elected federal officials and 74% support such limits for Supreme Court justices. But there are no age limits, so 19 members of Congress are 80+, and the median age of US Senators is 65. There are also none in any of our 50 states.  
How do you feel about a mandatory retirement age for our presidents, governors, legislators and judges? What should be that mandatory retirement age?
- What are good reasons for a mandatory retirement age?
- What are good reasons to not have a mandatory retirement age?
- Would a mandatory retirement age affect how people act while in office? Why or why not?

## **(4) Closing comments**

**5 - 10 min.**

- Any additional comments about length of service term limits or a mandatory retirement age for our government members?