



MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2010

## Term Limits or Electoral Accountability?



**By Daryl Luna, Editor at:**

[In Defense of the Constitution](#)

Whether at Tea Party events or in general political discourse, I often hear a great desire for term limits voiced by people frustrated with our out-of-control government. They

hope that the implementation of congressional term limits would go a long way toward solving our political ills. I, however, am not convinced. In fact, I believe that we already have a system of term limits in place; we just don't use it. It's called elections.

Every politician has his day in court each election cycle. Sadly, we often neglect carrying out the sentence most politicians deserve- a trip back home. Instead, time after time, we reward those who trample our liberties and ally themselves with powerful special interests by sending them back into office to continue their misdeeds.

Indeed, the electorate is very much a part of the problem. Failing to punish unconstitutional action, we have encouraged a system of legal looting and constitutional neglect. Term limits might allow individual politicians less time to carry out their abuse, but they will not solve the problem.

What would send a powerful message is simply "kicking the bums out of office." Instead of rubber stamping incumbents, we should be making them earn their jobs and honor their oaths. If they fail to do that, they should be forced to hit the road. However, if they succeeded, most of the term limit concerns would be put to rest- though not all.

Even if politicians were on their best behavior, there would still be those calling for term limits because the Founding Fathers never envisioned career politicians; they wanted citizen legislators. This concern is well founded, and at the same time, not well founded at all.

On the former point, some of our very Founders were career politicians; so the idea was not foreign to them. Yes, most of them had day jobs before and after politics, but so do many of our current "career politicians." As for the latter point regarding citizen legislators, this is a very well founded concern.



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