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Citizens for Limited Political Terms
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Term Limit Update

A Meeting with Vice President Dan Quayle

Vice President Dan Quayle

Fort Lauderdale
June 3, 1992



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Agenda
Meeting with Vice President Dan Quayle
Citizens for Limited Political Terms

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

June 3, 1992

1 p.m.

- I. Welcome & Introductions**
- II. Campaign Update**
- III. National Term Limit Campaign Update**
- IV. Term Limit Opposition**
- V. Campaign Finance Needs**
- Break**
- VI. Arrival of Vice President Dan Quayle**
- VII. Round Table Discussion**

Comment

Term limits would give voters real choice

Editor's note: This commentary was excerpted from Vice President Dan Quayle's Dec. 6 address to Citizens for Limited Political Terms at the Greater Orlando Chamber of Commerce.



Another View

Dan Quayle

First of all, let me congratulate the Greater Orlando Chamber of Commerce on your endorsement of the term limitations initiative.

Before I got here, I wanted to check out and see exactly how much support the term limitation initiative really has, so I stopped off at Brian's Restaurant. And I want to tell you that the term limitation issue is doing very well at Brian's. And I'm told that as Brian's goes, so goes Orlando. As Orlando goes, so goes the state of Florida.

Seriously, I am delighted to be here, to be with friends and to be able to talk to you about an issue that been near and dear to my heart for a long time.

Outside I saw a sign that perhaps summarizes better than I can I do. There was a little picture of the nation's capital, and it said, "Washington is a good place to visit, but not to live." I believe that term limitations say this: Go to Washington, represent us, be good public servants, but then come home and live under the laws that you passed and see how you like it.

Term limits is an idea whose time has come. You've got to make sure that it happens, that it comes to Florida. This is real democracy; this is grass roots political orga-

nization at its very, very best.

Today I'd like to focus upon why Congress needs to have their terms limited. Incumbents in Congress have a massive advantage in money — the mother's milk of politics. In 1990, only 6 percent of the races in the House of Representatives were financially competitive. Ninety-four weren't competitive at all. House incumbents raised six times as much as their competitors. And in the Senate, it was three to one.

Those figures don't take into account the advantages of mass mails, under the so-called franking privilege. In 1989, Congress sent 600 million pieces of mail to the people of the United States, at a cost of \$90 million.

Re-election rates are simply astronomical. In 1990, 98.3 percent of House incumbents were re-elected. In the 100th Congress, 1987-1989, more House members left office through death than through defeat at the polls. Six were defeated; five of those six were driven out because of an ethics issue. Therefore that means one incumbent really faced the voters and had a battle of the competition of ideas and suffered a defeat.

A race for re-election hasn't always been this certain. In the 1800s, rates were between 40 percent and 70 percent. In 1946-1966, the average was 88. From 1966 to 1988, the average was 94 percent. Now the average is about 96 percent and growing.

Let us look at some of the compelling reasons that we need to limit congressional terms. First, equality and fairness. The executive branch is limited, but the congressional branch is not limited. I think it is only fair that if the executive branch is limited, then the congressional branch should be limited.

I don't want to sound too partisan on this, because many Democrats support the cam-

paign to limit the terms on Congress. Former presidents Truman and Kennedy supported this as well as Republicans Eisenhower and Lincoln. So it is an idea that has been around quite some time. It is an idea whose time has finally arrived.

If the Constitution can limit Ronald Reagan to two terms, if it can limit George Bush to two terms, then I say it's good for the country to limit to two terms those like Howard Metzenbaum and Ted Kennedy.

The House of Representatives has been controlled by one party for 37 straight years. Now when it comes to one-party legislative dominance, of the major countries around the world, only Japan, Mexico, South Africa and until recently, the Soviet Union, show comparable rates.

Now I think you agree with me that it's time for a change.

Term limits, I believe, will produce a Congress that will be more serious about the business of legislating, and less serious about only focusing on their re-election. I was in Congress for 12 years, and for most, that is the top priority — just to get re-elected. And that is not conducting business in the interest of their constituency.

It's easy for me to talk about reforming Congress since I have left it. But my maiden speech in the House of Representatives in 1977 was on term limitations. I was 29 at the

time I made that speech; I was a young man then. I have fully recovered. And I still believe that we need to have term limitations.

Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker appointed me the chairman of the Select Committee on Committee Reorganization. And I can tell you, that really opened my eyes. Some senators, and this is still the case, serve on no less than 17 committees and subcommittees. How are they going to do effective business serving on 17 committees and subcommittees? They simply can't do the job.

I wanted to reduce that number. We did reduce it to some extent, but I was less than successful in achieving my objective of reducing it by about a quarter.

The problem is aggravated by endless congressional careers. Some members of Congress today have served 20, 30, 40 and 50 years. The longer you stay, the more staff you get. In 1970, the congressional staff was 10,000; today it's 20,000 and growing.

There's another problem with long-term congressional service, and that is the institutional arrogance that comes out of long-term service. Congress is exempt, and exempted itself, from the following laws: the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, the National Labor Relations Act, the Freedom of Infor-

Please see QUAYLE, Page 26

Quayle: Congressional races lack competition

Continued from Page 25

mation Act, the Privacy Act, and get this, the Ethics in Government Act.

Increasingly, there are two classes of Americans: those who make laws and those who must obey them. People want change, and I believe they are simply tired of seeing the same old faces keep showing up time and time again.

My No. 1 rule in politics is you can't beat a somebody with a nobody. Unfortunately, when you have this tremendous advantage for incumbents, a lot of people simply won't

run.

The bottom line in my viewpoint is that Americans are being denied true competition in the electoral process. I'm familiar with arguments against term limitations, and let me share them with you.

First, they say good people will be forced from office. I'm not going to argue that: Some good people will be forced from office. But are you telling me that the current crowd that is in Washington are the only good people that America can send to the Congress of the United States? That is a typical Washington attitude.

There are lot of good quality men and women that can serve and should serve in the U.S. Congress. This crowd has no monopoly on quality.

Another argument is that special interests will gain power. Well in response to that, I'd like to ask this question: Who do you think has the power right now? Today there is an iron triangle of committees, the bureaucrats and the special interest crowd.

Some argue that the congressional staff would take over if congressional terms were limited. Who are they kidding? The congressional staff runs the Congress right now.

They are the ones who have the power when a senator serves on 17 different committees and subcommittees, because he or she doesn't have the time to get involved on the details of the legislation.

Finally, there is the argument that the voters will be denied the choice — that it's really up to the voters to choose who they want. My friends, that choice is being denied today. Only 6 percent of the races in the House of Representatives are financially competitive. We do not have a choice today. We do not have competition in our congressional races.

*It is time to exchange the
professional politician for the
original model of citizen-
statesman...to return our
government to the people...*

-- Then Congressman Dan Quayle, 1977

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Eight Is Enough

Like most incumbents, Florida Congressman Larry Smith hates term limits. When a group called Eight is Enough proposed a term-limit initiative, he promptly asked the Florida Supreme Court to throw it off the ballot before voters in the state could decide the issue. That took brass, but the full chutzpah wasn't revealed until it was disclosed that the 41-page brief he filed in the case was prepared for him at no cost by the legal counsel of the House of Representatives.

"It's not enough that Members are caught kiting checks and ignoring meal tabs," says Phil Handy, a businessman and chairman of Eight is Enough. "Now they want free legal services to fight citizen initiatives." Mr. Smith, a 10-year veteran of the House, refused to reimburse the estimated \$25,000 worth of legal services, and the House voted in November to back up its counsel's decision to write the brief. The House lawyers are another privilege of incumbency.

Just before Christmas, the Florida Supreme Court ignored the House arguments, at least for now. It ruled that the people do have a right to decide whether or not they want term limits. It will rule on constitutional issues only if the measure passes.

The court's decision sets up a bruising political battle for next November. Mr. Handy's group already has 40% of the 364,000 signatures needed for ballot status. Despite Speaker Tom Foley's success in defeating a retroactive term limit in Washington state, Florida politicians aren't optimistic about beating term limits in their state. Bo Johnson, the Speaker of the State House, introduced a constitutional amendment for a 12-year limit on state legislators that would exclude Members of Congress from any limits. Mr. Handy predicts voters will reject this attempt to co-opt his initiative.

The more serious challenge to

term limits for Congress is the still-unresolved constitutional issue. Rep. Smith and his taxpayer-funded legal guns argue that a state cannot impose term limits on its Members of Congress because this would add another qualification for serving in Congress beyond the requirements in the Constitution. One response is that the Supreme Court has upheld several state laws denying incumbents the right to run under certain circumstances.

Florida's Mr. Handy went a step further, crafting his term-limit proposal in a way designed to avoid constitutional complications. His plan would not necessarily limit terms. Instead, anyone in office for eight consecutive years would not be allowed to have his name appear on the ballot in the next election. "No doubt some incumbents think they are indispensable," Mr. Handy says. "We say they can run again, but they have to convince people they are truly special by winning a write-in campaign."

The Florida limit would thus allow voters to re-elect beloved representatives, but would balance the awesome advantages of incumbency with the handicap of having to run as write-in candidates. Legal scholars note that states have long been given much leeway to regulate access to their ballots. Also, true statesmen should be able to cope under this system. After all, two current House Members—Ron Packard of California and Joe Skeen of New Mexico—both won their *first* terms as write-in candidates.

Florida's write-in option could answer the constitutional and practical objections against term limits, and could be copied by the other 10 states that appear likely to vote on term limits this year. Incumbents will still use all the political clout they can muster to fight term limits, but proponents of the idea now have an even better practical and legal case to make in their favor.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PETITION FORM

It is unlawful for any person to knowingly sign a petition or petitions for a particular issue or candidate more than one time. Any person violating the provision of this section shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in §775.082, §775.083, or §775.084.

TITLE: LIMITED POLITICAL TERMS IN CERTAIN ELECTIVE OFFICES

SUMMARY: Limits terms by prohibiting incumbents who have held the same elective office for the preceding eight years from appearing on the ballot for re-election to that office. Offices covered are: Florida Representative and Senator, Lieutenant Governor, Florida Cabinet, and U.S. Senator and Representative. Terms of office beginning before amendment approval are not counted.

I am a registered voter of Florida and hereby petition the Secretary of State to place the following amendment to the Florida Constitution on the ballot in the general election.

(Please print information as it appears on voter records.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

County _____

Precinct _____ Congressional District _____



Sign as registered

Date signed

FULL TEXT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT: BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF FLORIDA THAT:

The people of Florida believe that politicians who remain in elective office too long may become preoccupied with re-election and beholden to special interests and bureaucrats, and that present limitations on the President of the United States and Governor of Florida show that term limitations can increase voter participation, citizen involvement in government, and the number of persons who will run for elective office.

Therefore, to the extent permitted by the Constitution of the United States, the people of Florida, exercising their reserved powers, hereby declare that:

- 1) Article VI, §4 of the Constitution of the State of Florida is hereby amended by:

a) inserting "(a)" before the first word thereof and,
b) adding a new sub-section "(b)" at the end thereof to read:

"(b) No person may appear on the ballot for re-election to any of the following offices:

"(1) Florida representative,

"(4) any office of the Florida cabinet,

"(2) Florida senator,

"(5) U.S. Representative from Florida, or

"(3) Florida Lieutenant governor,

"(6) U.S. Senator from Florida

"if, by the end of the current term of office, the person will have served (or, but for resignation, would have served) in that office for eight consecutive years."

- 2) This amendment shall take effect on the date it is approved by the electorate, but no service in a term of office which commenced prior to the effective date of this amendment will be counted against the limit in the prior sentence.

- 3) If any portion of this measure is held invalid for any reason, the remaining portion of this measure, to the fullest extent possible, shall be severed from the void portion and given the fullest possible force and application. The people of Florida declare their intention that persons elected to offices of public trust will continue voluntarily to observe the wishes of the people as stated in this initiative in the event any provision of this initiative is held invalid.

Send To: P.O. Box 4888
Orlando, Florida 32802-4888

(407) 839-5888 in Orlando
1-800-289-8812 Toll-Free

Paid Political Advertisement
Citizens for Limited Political Terms
Phil Handy, Chairman

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EIGHT IS ENOUGH MILESTONES

I. Current Situation

Success of the term limit campaign in Florida is critical to the success of the nationwide term limit movement (see enclosed *Wall Street Journal* editorial). Florida is the largest initiative state that has not yet passed term limits. The campaign has emphasized volunteer petitioning efforts, and in doing so, has generated more signatures than any campaign of its kind in the history of Florida. In order to be placed on the November ballot, Citizens for Limited Political Terms must collect 500,000 signed petitions. To date, over 468,716 petition signatures have been collected.

II. Campaign Milestones

February 11, 1991	Citizens for Limited Political Terms founded Strategic campaign planning began Initiative wording drafted Public opinion research conducted
April 15, 1991	"Eight is Enough!" Petition Drive launched
May 21, 1991	Jacksonville voters passed term limits for council members by 82 percent vote
July 22, 1991	First 50,000 signatures gathered Initiative language reviewed by Attorney General
August 13, 1991	Vice President Dan Quayle meets "Eight is Enough" leaders
September 20, 1991	Review completed by Attorney General Language favorably recommended to Florida Supreme Court
November 8, 1991	Oral Arguments before the Florida Supreme Court Opposition briefs filed by: National Conference of State Legislators Congressman Larry Smith (D-Hollywood, FL) "Let the People Decide" Over 100,000 total signatures to date

December 6, 1991	Vice President Dan Quayle meets "Eight is Enough" leaders
December 19, 1991	Florida Supreme Court rules in favor of "Eight is Enough!"
January 2, 1992	<i>Wall Street Journal</i> endorses Florida's "Eight is Enough!"
January 23, 1992	Because of voter popularity of "Eight is Enough!", the Florida House of Representatives passes a 12-year state-only term limit proposal. The measure is expected to die in the Florida Senate.
February 1, 1992	Over 150,000 total signatures to date
March 5, 1992	Over 200,000 total signatures to date
March 10, 1992	Super Tuesday. Largest one-day petition-gathering effort Over 100,000 signatures collected by volunteers statewide Over 300,000 total signatures to date
May 22, 1992	Campaign meets 450,000 signature milestone
June 3, 1992	Vice President Dan Quayle meets "Eight is Enough" leaders

TERM LIMITS – THE NATIONAL OVERVIEW

The issue of limiting politicians terms is an important part of American political tradition. In 1777, the Articles of Confederation were amended to include a limitation of terms for its delegates to the Continental Congress.

In 1951, the United States Constitution was amended by the 22nd Amendment to limit the terms of office for the president to two four-year terms.

The Florida Constitution, re-written in 1968, included a provision that limited the terms of office for the governor to two four-year terms. Florida is one of the 28 states that limits the terms of its highest ranking state official.

Throughout the late 1980's, with the incumbent re-election rate averaging over 90 percent, ethics scandals and run-away budgets, many grassroots organizations were formed with the interest of limiting politicians terms.

The election of 1990 proved to be a good year for term limits, as the voters of California, Colorado and Oklahoma all passed term limit proposals. Colorado's amendment included its congressional delegation and passed with over 71 percent of the vote.

On February 7, 1991, Citizens for Limited Political Terms (CLPT) was formally established. April 15, 1991, CLPT launched Florida's term limit campaign. The campaign vowed to collect the 364,000 valid signatures required to have a term limit amendment placed on the ballot in November 1992.

Florida is one of the fourteen states currently working to place the issue of term limits on the 1992 ballot.

Eight is Enough
PETITION COUNT SUMMARY
May 30, 1992

Grand Total 468,716

Paid Total 220,332

Volunteer Total 248,384
(105,271 3/10/92)

Sent to Supervisor of Elections 423,026

Total Processed by SOE 196,509

Total Valid 163,781

Percent Valid 83%

COUNTY	REGISTERED VOTERS	GOAL	NEW TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL	PERCENT OF REG
ALACHUA	78,625	6,290	6,176	98.19%	7.86%
BAKER	8,202	656	138	21.03%	1.68%
BAY	55,523	4,442	3,753	84.49%	6.76%
BRADFORD	8,456	676	257	37.99%	3.04%
BREVARD	205,118	17,559	18,313	104.29%	8.93%
BROWARD	635,221	53,319	46,005	86.28%	7.24%
CALHOUN	5,380	430	57	13.24%	1.06%
CHARLOTTE	67,443	5,395	8,365	155.04%	12.40%
CITRUS	52,500	4,200	1,251	29.79%	2.38%
CLAY	44,273	3,542	1,968	55.56%	4.45%
COLLIER	66,528	6,072	9,495	156.37%	14.27%
COLUMBIA	18,511	1,481	934	63.07%	5.05%
DADE	673,838	53,907	24,686	45.79%	3.66%
DESOTO	10,354	828	58	7.00%	0.56%
DIXIE	7,552	604	175	28.97%	2.32%
DUVAL	304,169	25,584	31,888	124.64%	10.48%
ESCAMBIA	121,389	9,711	2,279	23.47%	1.88%
FLAGLER	15,723	1,258	445	35.38%	2.83%
FRANKLIN	5,744	460	362	78.78%	6.30%
GADSDEN	18,998	1,520	579	38.10%	3.05%
GILCHRIST	4,856	388	210	54.06%	4.32%
GLADES	4,195	336	35	10.43%	0.83%
GULF	7,182	575	153	26.63%	2.13%
HAMILTON	5,562	445	101	22.70%	1.82%
HARDEE	7,584	607	59	9.72%	0.78%
HENDRY	8,584	515	103	20.00%	1.20%
HERNANDO	67,012	5,361	646	12.05%	0.96%
HIGHLANDS	35,353	2,828	414	14.64%	1.17%
HILLSBOROUGH	347,626	27,935	41,226	147.58%	11.86%
HOLMES	7,945	636	311	48.93%	3.91%
INDIAN RIVER	50,974	4,078	6,217	152.46%	12.20%
JACKSON	18,356	1,468	639	43.51%	3.48%
JEFFERSON	6,234	499	117	23.46%	1.88%
LAFAYETTE	3,138	251	47	18.72%	1.50%
LAKE	71,100	5,688	6,033	106.07%	8.49%
LEE	161,485	13,819	9,839	71.20%	6.09%
LEON	99,577	7,966	4,622	58.02%	4.64%
LEVY	12,300	984	653	66.36%	5.31%
LIBERTY	2,909	233	17	7.30%	0.58%
MADISON	7,231	578	29	5.01%	0.40%
MANATEE	119,725	9,578	5,676	59.26%	4.74%
MARION	90,574	7,246	7,138	98.51%	7.88%
MARTIN	55,904	4,472	11,717	261.99%	20.96%
MONROE	40,308	3,225	299	9.27%	0.74%
NASSAU	19,319	1,546	972	62.89%	5.03%
OKALOOSA	64,879	5,190	3,667	70.65%	5.65%
OKEECHOBEE	12,776	1,022	147	14.38%	1.15%
ORANGE	233,559	19,935	29,653	148.75%	12.70%
OSCEOLA	49,508	4,076	5,324	130.62%	10.75%
PALM BEACH	461,956	38,956	25,129	64.51%	5.44%
PASCO	161,541	12,923	9,723	75.24%	6.02%
PINELLAS	492,578	41,906	27,053	64.56%	5.49%
POLK	154,766	14,381	14,718	102.34%	9.51%
PUTNUM	31,738	2,539	812	31.98%	2.56%
SANTA ROSA	47,263	3,781	375	9.92%	0.79%

PETITION COUNT 5/30/92

COUNTY	REGISTERED VOTERS	GOAL	NEW TOTAL	PERCENT OF GOAL	PERCENT OF REG
SARASOTA	177,095	15,168	5,304	34.97%	3.00%
SEMINOLE	115,203	10,116	14,534	143.67%	12.62%
ST JOHNS	41,539	3,323	4,785	143.99%	11.52%
ST LUCIE	72,075	5,766	4,102	71.14%	5.69%
SUMTER	13,588	1,087	196	18.03%	1.44%
SUWANEE	12,401	992	411	41.43%	3.31%
TAYLOR	8,210	657	217	33.04%	2.64%
UNION	4,048	324	61	18.84%	1.51%
VOLUSIA	184,087	15,966	12,874	80.63%	6.99%
WAKULA	8,075	646	75	11.61%	0.93%
WALTON	16,117	1,289	308	23.89%	1.91%
WASHINGTON	9,579	766	184	24.01%	1.92%
NOT SORTED			9,912		
NVO NOT SORT					
TOTALS	6,031,161	500,001	468,716	93.74%	7.77%

Florida: Lobbyists opposing Eight is Enough

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1992

THE FLORIDA TIMES-UNION

★★ SECTION B

**RELIGION
INSIDE**

Religion Roundup,
Barbara White,
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State Deaths 3

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FLORIDA

Lobbyists take aim at Eight is Enough crusade

By John F. Berry

Staff writer

TALLAHASSEE — Four of Florida's most powerful lobbyists have formed a political action committee to oppose limiting the terms of elected officials, the group's executive director said yesterday.

The group, Restore Our American Rights, soon will launch a public relations campaign about the dangers of limiting the terms of Florida's state and congressional officials, Donald Moody said.

Its formation comes in response to an Orlando-based group called Eight is Enough, which is petitioning to cap the

terms of legislators, Cabinet members and the lieutenant governor, as well as Florida's congressional members, to serving no more than eight years in the same office.

"We're just getting off the ground," Moody said. "I didn't take on this campaign to lose it."

Moody said the campaign will include radio, television and newspaper advertising.

Moody said the group has the help of Sam Bell, the husband of Education Commissioner Betty Castor and a lobbyist who represents 20 clients before the Legislature. Moody said other lobbyists leading the campaign are George Sheldon, who has 13

clients; Ron Richmond, who represents eight interests and Ken Plante, who has 12 clients.

All four lobbyists are former members of the Legislature.

In addition to the lobbyists, Dan Miller, president of the Florida AFL-CIO, will help the campaign, Moody said.

According to records, Sheldon and Plante will serve as the committee's co-chairman.

Sheldon, who will debate Eight is Enough Executive Director John Sowinski about term limits in the Capitol today, said the group has collected about \$2,000 thus far. It is expected to file its first campaign con-

tribution report on March 31.

Sowinski said he believes the fight could get dirty.

"These are people happy with the political system the way it is," Sowinski said. "They would just as soon keep their friends around."

Moody said he took on the executive director position after Joan Glickman, legislative assistant to Sen. Howard Forman, D-Pembroke Pines, approached him about forming a group to oppose Eight is Enough.

Ms. Glickman said yesterday that she approached Moody "as a lowly, private citi-

zen."

"He [Forman] knows about my activity, but I don't ask him about how he feels about it," she said.

Forman could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Eight is Enough Chairman Phil Handy announced Wednesday the group has collected about 332,000 of the 384,000 signatures it needs to get the measure on the November ballot. Handy said he expects the group to reach its 500,000 petition goal before August, when Eight is Enough must give its remaining petitions to officials.

Sam Bell (D)

- attorney
- former Florida House Member 1974 - 1988
- defeated in 1988 General Election
slated to be Rules chair ('88 - '90) then speaker
- represented Daytona Beach
- married Betty Castor, Florida Commissioner of Education

LEGISLATIVE LOBBYING CLIENTS 1992

Bell, Samuel 315 S Calhoun St, Ste 500 Tallahassee, FL 32301 904/681-3233

Aging, FL Assn of Homes for the 1018 Thomasville Rd, Ste 200Y Tallahassee, FL 32303

American Pioneer Title Insurance 493 E Semoran Blvd Casselberry, FL 32707

Coca-Cola Enterprises c/o Tom Sherman PO Box 1778 Atlanta, GA 30301

Daytona Beach PO Box 2451 Daytona Beach, FL 32115-2451

Domestic Insurance Co Assn, FL c/o Hugh Ray, Ste 500 315 S Calhoun St Tallahassee, FL 32301

Golden Rule Insurance Co 7440 Woodland Dr Indianapolis, ID 46278-1719

Hospices Inc, FL PO Box 560965 Rockledge, FL 32955

LifeLink of FL 2111 W Swann Ave Tampa, FL 33606

Medical Center, Orlando Regional c/o John W. Bozard 1414 S Kuhl Ave Orlando, FL 32806

Orlando c/o Jim Willard 20 N Orange Ave, Ste 1000 Orlando, FL 32801

Petroleum Council, FL c/o Doug Shelby, Ste 800 215 S Monroe St Tallahassee, FL 32301

Rental Dealers Assn, FL c/o Margo Tillotson 661 Beville Rd S Daytona, FL 32019 —Withdrawn—02/01/91

Schrimsher Associates c/o Jim Willard 20 N Orange Ave, Ste 1000 Orlando, FL 32801

Unity Life One Unity Plaza Syracuse, NY 13215-0068

Universal Studios 1000 Universal Studios Plaza Orlando, FL 32819

University of Health Sciences, SE c/o Dr. Arnold Melnick 1750 NE 168th St North Miami Beach, FL 33162 —Withdrawn—02/01/91

University, Embry Riddle Aeronautic Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Volusia Co Attn: Dan Eckert 123 W Indiana Ave DeLand, FL 32720-4613

Water Mgt District, St Johns River PO Box 1429 Palatka, FL 32178-1429

Wine Institute c/o J. Robert Benton PO Box 895 Jonesboro, GA 30237

Ken Plante (R)

- attorney
- former Florida Senate member 1968 - 1978
- former Senate Republican Leader 1976 - 1978
- represented Orlando
- began lobbying immediately following legislative career

LEGISLATIVE LOBBYING CLIENTS 1992

Plante, Ken PO Box 10263 Tallahassee, FL 32302 904/224-5684
Chamber of Commerce, Greater Tampa 5209 Tampa Palm Blvd
Tampa, FL 33647 —Withdrawn—01/01/91
Coopers & Lybrand 501 N Orange Ave Orlando, FL 32801
FL Power & Light 703 First FL Bank Bldg Tallahassee, FL 32301
High Speed Rail Corp, FL 185 NW Spanish River Blvd, Ste 100 Boca
Raton, FL 33431
Hospital, Humana Inc PO Box 1438 Louisville, KY 40201
Land Surveyors, FL Society of Prof 1689 Mahan Center Blvd, Ste A
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Pari-Mutuel, Dania Jai Alai PO Box 121 Dania, FL 33004
Pari-Mutuel, Tampa Bay Downs Racetrack Rd Oldsmar, FL 34677
Pest Control Assn, FL 6882 Edgewater Commerce Pkwy Orlando, FL
32810
Rinker Materials Corp 1501 Belvedere Rd West Palm Beach, FL
33406
Rural Electric Cooperative Assn, FL 703 First FL Bank Bldg Talla-
hassee, FL 32301
Southland Corp PO Box 711 Dallas, TX 75221-0711
Toyota Distributors, SE PO Box 1160 Deerfield Beach, FL 33443

Ron Richmond (R)

- attorney
- former Florida House of Representative member 1972 - 1982
- former House Republican Leader 1980 - 1982
- represented New Port Richey
- began lobbying immediately following legislative career

LEGISLATIVE LOBBYING CLIENTS 1992

Richmond, Ronald R. 300 E Park Avenue Tallahassee, FL 32301 904/224-2200

Beer Industry of FL PO Box 3313 Tallahassee, FL 32315 —Withdrawn—01/31/91

Bowling Centers Assn Inc, FL 10014 N Dale Mabry Tampa, FL 33618

Bozell Inc 3841 Killlearn Ct Ste C Tallahassee, FL 32308

CAI Management Company Task Force

Capital Insurance Agency, Inc Thomasville Rd Tallahassee, FL 32303 —Withdrawn—06/01/91

Developmental Disabilities Council Ste I-100 820 E Park Ave Tallahassee, FL 32301 —Withdrawn—07/01/91

Gregory Systems International 4034 W Lawrence Ave Chicago, IL 60630 —Withdrawn—06/01/91

HealthTrust, Inc 700 S Palafax St Pensacola, FL 32501

Hospital Corp of America PO Box 13597 Tallahassee, FL 32317

Southeast Banks, NA 101 N Monroe St Tallahassee, FL 32301 —Withdrawn—12/01/91

Southern Wine & Spirits 1600 NW 163rd St Miami, FL 33169

UNISYS Corp 8008 W. Park Dr, 6th Floor McLean, VA 22102

Windreal Corp PO Box 1387 Palm Harbor, FL 34682

George Sheldon (D)

- attorney
- former Florida House Member 1974 - 1982
- ran unsuccessfully for U.S. Congress 1982
- represented Tampa
- began lobbying immediately following legislative career

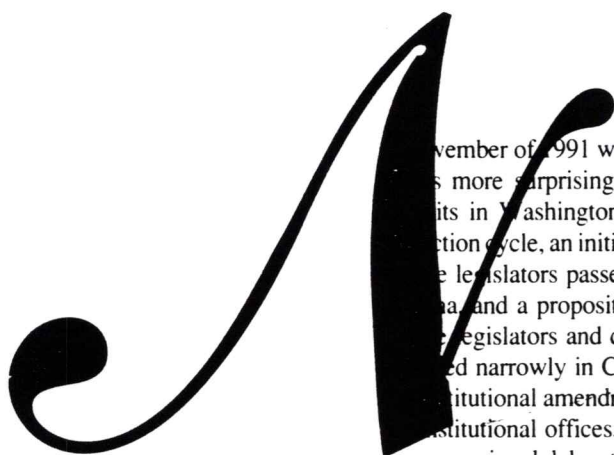
LEGISLATIVE LOBBYING CLIENTS 1992

Sheldon, George H. Ste 200 108 S Monroe St Tallahassee, FL 32301 904/
222-5620

Advertising Coalition, State
Agripost, Inc
Claims, Brenda Smith
Claims, Christina Martinez
Nature Conservancy
Pan American & Assoc
Procter & Gamble
Public Employees, Federation of
Social Workers, Nat'l Assn
Sunrise Community
Tandem Computers, Inc
Windreal Corp

How We Short-Circuited the Terminators in Washington State

By Will Robinson & David Dixon



November of 1991 was full of upsets, but none was more surprising than the defeat of term limits in Washington State. During the 1990 election cycle, an initiative limiting the terms of state legislators passed in a landslide in Oklahoma, and a proposition limiting the terms of state legislators and constitutional offices also passed narrowly in California. A more radical constitutional amendment limiting the terms of constitutional offices, state legislators, and the congressional delegation also passed by a wide margin in Colorado. When we were hired by the "No on 553" Committee in September, it looked like Washington State would be another solid victory for the term limit movement.

Now that several waves of conventional wisdom have eroded the reality of what actually happened, it's time to review the true lessons learned in defeating 553. Let's also look at how those lessons might apply to term limit campaigns in the future.

Given the political climate last fall—with the "hot" checks drawn on the U.S. House bank, the unpaid bills at the House restaurant and the Thomas Hearings—we could not allow the opposition to label the campaign against term limits as the "politicians" against the "reformers." We were a broad-based coalition of organizations and non-profit groups, headed by Margaret Colony, president of the state League of Women Voters. It also included prominent business persons, clergy, the Sierra Club, The State Labor Council, Common Cause, Washington State Grange, and the Washington State Education Association. This diverse coalition gave the anti-term limit effort institutional credibility with the press and informed voters.

Despite opinion within the anti-term limit coalition that the federal portion (limiting congressional terms) of the initiative was probably unconstitutional, no court has thrown term limits off the ballot. Unfortunately, legal challenges to 553 in state court diverted campaign resources and time. There is often a desire among anti-term limit activists to "educate" voters on the constitutional issues of term limits; but in this situation, such a strategy would have been an unproductive exercise. Washington voters would have seen a court battle against the initiative prior to the vote as an attempt to circumvent their will—a sure recipe for backlash. And if the state's electorate approved limits by a substantial margin, a subsequent legal overturn might prove to be a politically Pyrrhic victory.

Navigating the Strategic Straits

A critical point in the campaign was our early decision to spend scarce campaign resources on extensive polling and opposition research. Most importantly, the research disproved many of the campaign's initial "gut level" strategies and feelings on how to defeat term limits.

The research also showed that voters clearly wanted change and to "reform" the system—they were even willing to risk losing popular elected officials to send this message. Preliminary polling done by Celinda Lake (Greenberg/Lake) showed that over 70 percent of Washington State voters supported the concept of term limits. It also showed that we could not win this initiative on the basis of the pros and cons of congressional term limits alone. In order to win,

we would have to shift the debate—the dialogue of the campaign—off the issue of term limits and on to the consequences of Washington State losing its congressional clout. The research also showed that the state's low electric rates, water rights, jobs, and its protected environment were clout-related issues that moved public opinion.

Further research by Bob Norris (N/K Associates) discovered that the Washington LIMIT campaign was heavily subsidized by conservative national organizations and wealthy individuals such as the Koch brothers, wealthy oil billionaires from Wichita, Kansas. Research revealed that the Kochs were involved in the Libertarian Party; David Koch was the party's nominee for Vice President in 1980, advocating the elimination of Social Security, legalization of drugs, and the scrapping of the Environmental Protection Agency. Additional opposition research also revealed that the "grass roots" term limit effort had hired petition circulators—paying 40¢ to 65¢ for each name collected—and had received Washington State's largest political contribution, \$300,000 from Citizens for Congressional Reform.

In spite of their intended public perception of a popularly-based groundswell organization, the pro-term limit campaign had access to a considerable amount of national money, outspending our campaign almost three to one. Accordingly, we had to make every dollar count.

Moning the Media Message

How to mount an efficient and effective message delivery is one of a campaign's most crucial decisions. Because of our limited budget

Probable Term-Limit Initiatives, 1992

	Federal	State
Arizona		✂
Arkansas		✂
California	✂	
Florida	✂	✂
Michigan	✂	✂
Missouri	✂	✂
Montana	✂	✂
Ohio	✂	✂
Oregon	✂	✂
South Dakota	✂	✂
Wyoming	✂	✂

Source: *Let The People Decide*

"Imagine" (60-sec. Radio Spot)

Imagine this. Oil drilling off our shore—and huge oil supertankers like the Exxon Valdez zig-zagging their way through the San Juan's at night...in the fog. For years oil company lobbyists in Washington, DC have wanted that to happen. But our own Congressional delegation stopped them. The term limitation proposition would strip us of that protection—totally—and forever. Washington would give up its clout in Congress, while other states keep theirs. Or imagine having your utility rates double. Right now federal hydro-electric projects give us the lowest electric rates in the country. Term limitations will give other states the power to raise our rates—which will strain the budgets of young families and threaten our local economies. Our families, our environment, our jobs are at stake. There's just too much to lose. That's why those of us in the No on 553 Committee are proud to have paid for this message.

and message agenda in this situation, we decided to spend most of our media dollars on radio.

In most cases, media consultants are distressed about a campaign's inability to buy television to deliver its message. In this case however, our campaign benefited by staying off television until very late. Four or five weeks out, the campaign concluded that we had to "quietly" move the dialogue of this initiative off-term limits and government's unresponsiveness, laying out the argument that losing the Washington congressional delegation could cost voters their jobs, threaten their low electric rates and jeopardize their environment. Moreover, it had to be done without drawing a well-funded negative attack from the terminators.

We designed a three and a half week targeted radio and cable campaign, supplemented with free/earned media (also carefully targeted by region and issue/topic) that would focus on Washington losing its powerful delegation and unilaterally disarming itself while other states retained their entrenched congressmen.

The first radio spot—which primarily focused on the economy and why Washington should not unilaterally disarm—played state wide for seven to eight days. Our initial demographic targets were blue-collar

households, women and seniors. We specifically targeted the next spot ("Imagine," see sidebar) to King County (Seattle voters). Addressing environmental protection and the growing pressures on young families, this spot played in rotation with others only in the Seattle market, where environmental concerns had not been tempered by concern for the welfare of the timber industry.

Our final radio message ("Danger," see sidebar) was designed to work in conjunction with a cable television spot (which ran in King County during the last week), and a free media blitz designed to undermine the pro-term limit forces' image as a "common citizen" campaign.

Tracking polls showed we had closed a 70-30 percent deficit to dead even by the Thursday before the election. Our top targets (women and seniors) had been the primary switchers. The radio worked as a silent killer; our arguments permeated the voters' minds without our opposition realizing they had to regain control of the dialogue or directly respond.

Finally, the importance of free/earned media can not be underestimated in this campaign. Campaign manager Linda Marson and coalition member Mark Brown did an outstanding job of handling the state and national press. Our coalition was very effective in winning editorial board endorsements against the initiative and spinning the radio talk shows on our behalf. And the politicians themselves, both Democratic and Republican, were effective in delivering the message in the local press that Washington State had too much to lose if term limits passed. Speaker Foley's final weekend swing around the state on the heels of retirement announcements by Gov. Booth Gardner and Cong. Al

"Billionaires" (30-sec CATV Spot)

Voice Over

Two oil billionaire brothers are financing the term limit campaign.

What do they want?

They want to end social security for our seniors.

No.

They want to let oil tankers like the Exxon Valdez into Puget Sound.

No.

They want to strip our state of our strength to protect ourselves.

No.

On Tuesday, we need to send a message even oil billionaires can understand.

No to their Term Limits.

Visual

Pictures of the Koch Brothers.

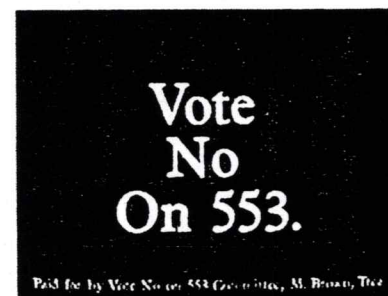
Picture of Elderly Woman.

Picture of oil-soaked bird.

Picture of family.

Picture of Koch Brothers.

NO on 553 logo.



"Danger" (60-sec Radio Spot)

Did you know that the term limit campaign is being financed by two oil billionaires from Oklahoma and other outside special interests? It's true. And that's not only outrageous—it's dangerous. What do they want? They've stated that they want to end Social Security for our seniors. Is that what you want? They've stated that they want to scrap the Environmental Protection Agency. Should we let them? Outsiders want the water we need diverted to other states—they think it's unfair that we pay lower electric rates—all because we've been strong enough to defend ourselves. They want to strip our state of its clout in Congress while other states keep theirs. Do you think other states will fight to protect our jobs, our environment, our families. Initiative 553 is dangerous—but on Tuesday, you can vote to stop it. Vote no on 553. Vote no to protect our rights and our future. That's why those of us in the No on 553 Committee are proud to have paid for this message.

Swift also played an important role moving the undecideds to "No" during the last weekend.

The Future

The eight-point defeat in Washington State has only slowed down the term limit drive, which is now making initiative efforts in over a dozen states. These campaigns will continue to stir voter anger and give the 1992 elections an entirely new edge. Many states have "open" campaign finance laws for initiatives and referendum that will allow hundreds of thousands of dollars of corporate and soft money to drive pro-term limit and anti-incumbent messages. It will be the challenge of the anti-term limit forces to use some of the lessons learned in Washington State to control the dialogue and seize control of their campaigns. ♦

Will Robinson & David Dixon are senior associates with **White & Company**, a Democratic media firm with offices in New York City and Washington, DC.

CAMPAIGN NEEDS

The campaign to limit politicians terms in Florida has the potential to be the largest and most successful grassroots campaign in Florida's history.

With such growing interest in term limits, Citizens for Limited Political Terms needs the assistance of leaders in the business and political community in the areas of fundraising, increasing our visibility and offering advice on others to contact for assistance.

Here is how you can help the campaign:

- 1. Contribute generously to our effort.**
- 2. Help raise funds**
 - identify potential large donors**
 - write to them letting them know of your support and asking them to donate**
 - follow up with a visit or an event to secure their contribution**

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

In order to win in November, the Eight is Enough campaign must raise as much as our opposition. Based on opposition fundraising in other states where term limits has been on the ballot, we believe that term limit opponents will raise over \$1 million to fight us with an enormous paid media campaign.

Most of their funds will not be raised early, but in the weeks leading up to the election. This money will be used for one thing. Paid media.

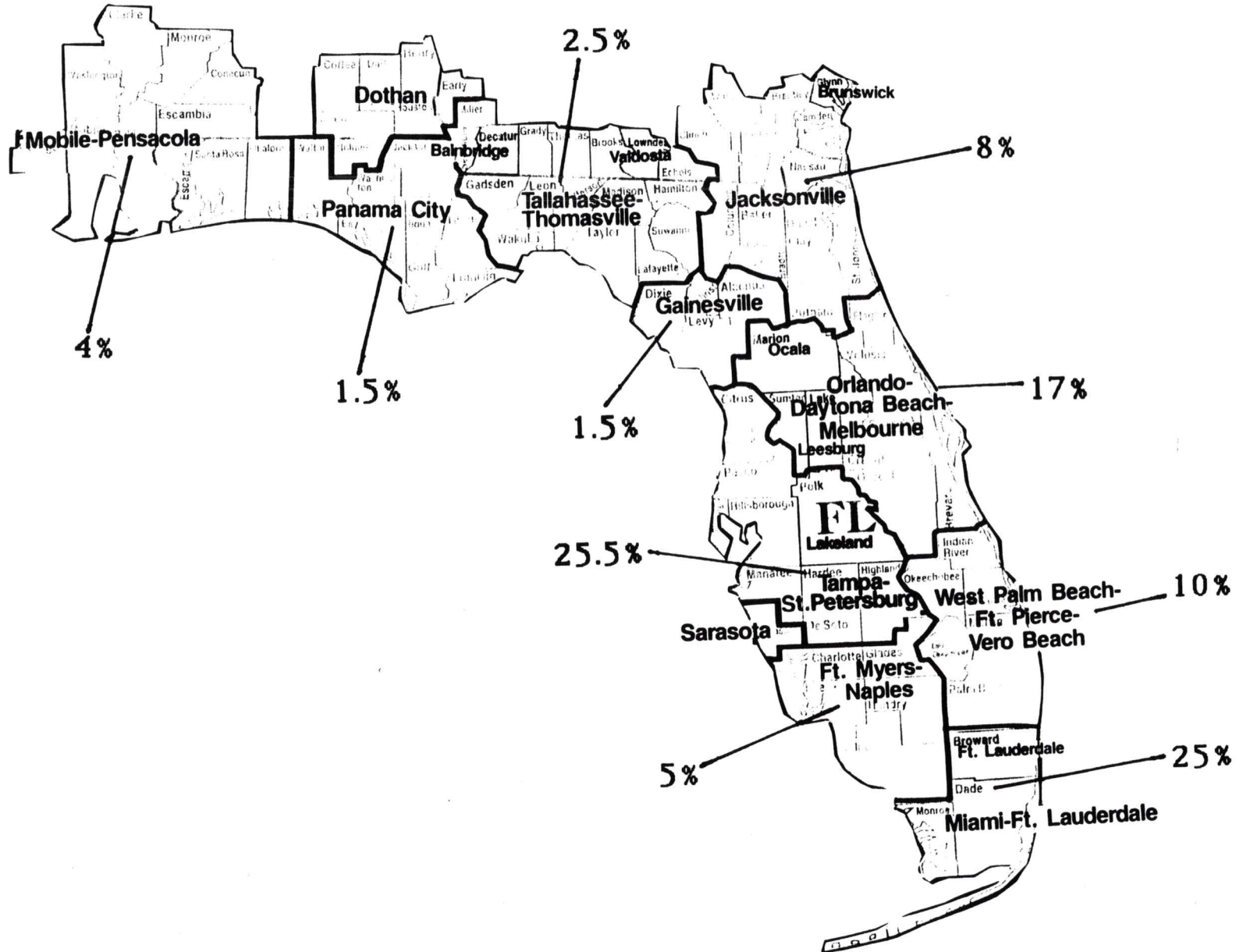
We must raise \$1.1 million between June 1, 1992 and October 15, 1992 in order to insure victory.

These funds will be used primarily for paid media to counter the deceptive advertising campaign that will be launched by the opposition.

Media costs in Florida are expensive. The following pages in this section give an overview of costs per media market in Florida. The cost given for TV and radio advertising is per gross rating point. According to media experts, in order for the message of your ad to have impact on the market, 1000 points must be bought.

Saturation costs for one statewide television ad is therefore \$571,000. Naturally, our message must be precise and media buys targeted.

FLORIDA TELEVISION ADI'S



STATEWIDE FLORIDA TELEVISION
Projected Cost Per Point
Fourth Quarter 1992

<u>MARKET</u>	<u>HOUSEHOLD CPP</u>
Miami	\$ 153
Tampa	120
Orlando	78
West Palm Beach	61
Jacksonville	48
Mobile-Pensacola	34
Ft. Myers	25
Gainesville	20
Tallahassee	18
Panama City	<u>14</u>
STATEWIDE COST PER POINT	\$ 571

STATEWIDE FLORIDA RADIO
Projected Cost Per Point
Fourth Quarter 1992

<u>MARKET</u>	<u>ADULTS 35+ CPP</u>
Daytona Beach	\$ 21
Ft. Myers	11
Ft. Pierce	7
Ft. Walton Beach	7
Gainesville	8
Jacksonville	26
Lakeland-Winter Haven	18
Melbourne-Titusville-Cocoa	28
Miami-Ft. Lauderdale-Hollywood	76
Naples-Marco Island	9
Orlando	47
Panama City	5
Pensacola	22
Sarasota-Bradenton	31
Tallahassee	17
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater	54
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton	<u>38</u>

STATEWIDE COST PER POINT \$ 425

FLORIDA CABLE
Estimated Weekly Cost

<u>Market</u>	<u>Cost/Spot</u>	<u># of Systems</u>	<u>Cost/Week</u>
Miami	\$ 366.50	15	\$ 26,388
Tampa	350.00	14	25,200
Orlando	261.50	10	18,828
West Palm Beach	209.50	4	15,084
Jacksonville	121.50	7	8,748
Mobile-Pensacola	71.00	7	5,112
Ft. Myers	119.50	6	8,604
Gainesville	23.50	1	1,692
Tallahassee	28.00	1	2,016
Panama City	12.00	1	<u>864</u>

TOTAL ONE-WEEK COST

\$ 112,536

Based on Heavy Schedule

36 Spots/Week

2 Networks (i.e. CNN and ESPN)

72 Spots/Week Total



Citizens for Limited Political Terms
Post Office Box 4888
Orlando, Florida 32802-4888
(407) 839-5888 or 1-800-289-8812
FAX: (407) 839-4360

CITIZENS FOR LIMITED POLITICAL TERMS

*Remarks from Phil Handy, Chairman
April 15, 1991*

We are here today because for far too long we have been *asking* politicians to do what's right, and now the time has come to *tell* them. Like most Americans, I was raised to have respect for our democratic process and for our elected leaders, but now, like most Americans, I believe the process has been abused and leadership has been abandoned by politicians who are more interested in *self* service than in *public* service.

Today, and every April 15th, American taxpayers are reminded by higher taxes and rising deficits that our political system is in desperate need of repair. Its time to recognize these and many other symptoms as signs that government has lost touch -- and that it no longer functions at the consent of the governed.

We are here today to ask you to join us in returning citizen government to the people by limiting the number of years an individual can serve at the state or federal level to a maximum of eight -- because -- **Eight is enough!**

We're not saying that elected officials can't serve more than eight years in public office, just not more than eight years consecutively in the *same* office -- after that it should be "up or out!" Or, they should take a sabbatical for at least one term before running for the same office again. Why? Just take a look around and ask yourself --

If there were term limitations and politicians' first priority was not their own re-election do you think we'd have our tax dollars being used as hush money to attempt to cover up sex scandals in Tallahassee?

- Do you think we'd be paying over \$90 million a year in taxes so our incumbent senators and congressmen could mail us tons of self-serving political junk mail promoting themselves?

- Do you think we'd see unions and big business alike pouring millions into incumbents' re-election campaigns to protect their cozy relationships at the expense of the rest of the American people? Last year alone U.S. House incumbents raised six times more than their challengers, and U.S. Senate incumbents out spent their opponents three to one. Where did the money come from, and what did it buy?

But who's going to straighten out the system? Who's going to bring democracy back to the people? Not the politicians, that's for sure. Time and again, we've seen efforts to reform the campaign system fail because the entrenched politicians won't have their power threatened by the mere process of democracy --

So, the people have to speak out and act -- that's why we've formed Citizens for Limited Political Terms. It's up to us to stop complaining and to start making a real difference. The concept, once revolutionary, of government of the people, by the people, and for the people, must once again become the foundation of freedom and the purpose of democracy. We need citizen government, not cynical government.

For this reason, the non-partisan Citizens for Limited Political Terms will gather over 400,000 signatures on a statewide voter petition to have a term limitation amendment placed on the 1992 ballot. The amendment will limit consecutive terms for both the Florida Legislature and statewide offices as well as Florida's Congressional delegation to eight consecutive years.

If eight years is long enough for Ronald Reagan to be President of the United States, and for Reubin Askew to be Governor of Florida -- then eight years is long enough for members of the Legislature, the Cabinet and the U.S. Congress!

Term limitation efforts have succeeded in California, Colorado and Oklahoma because they make sense. First, they break the death grip that entrenched incumbents' hold on the reigns of power. Second, term limits eliminate career politicians and replace them with the citizen government this nation was founded upon. And third, term limits open up the process of government to more good people and to the new ideas we need to meet the future.

This state and this nation need a change -- a change to provide innovative and successful education for our children, quality health care, a reinvigorated economy, a safe environment, fairness in our system of social services, and an attack on the underlying causes of crime -- for too long, too few have done too little because they've been responsive only to those who will keep them in power.

In the course of the last three election cycles, incumbents have beaten challengers on average of 97% of the time in U.S. House races, and 95% of the time in Florida House races. Why? Because they raise and spend more money from special interest groups, get free media time, and continue to structure the campaign system in their favor. The only way to get them out is to force them out through term limitations.

We believe that politicians will then be more inclined to serve the public than to sell them out. With term limits, public officials will either get out of politics, run for higher office, choose to "sit out" at least one term and run again, or run as a write-in candidate. This will mean more competition and better choices on election day. This is essential to healthy democracy.

While term limits may displace some "good" elected officials temporarily, it is nothing short of arrogant to assert that there are not hundreds -- perhaps thousands -- of citizens everywhere who could be outstanding elected leaders. When this country was in its infancy, the State of Virginia had roughly the same population as one U.S. House District has today -- yet it produced George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and George Mason.

Many people who would serve in public office, and who would serve as well, choose not to run because the system is stacked against them. Who knows how many Washingtons, Jeffersons, Madisons and Masons we've lost?

We've got to find ourselves again. We've got to take responsibility for government back into our own hands or we'll soon be taking lessons in democracy from the Poles and the Czechs. We've got to end the reign of professional politicians and their staffs.

We've got to level the political playing field ourselves and not expect the current players to do it for us. Last month, on the same day that the Florida House Ethics and Elections Subcommittee soundly defeated a bill to limit terms, it overwhelmingly passed another bill -- to make it almost impossible for citizens to gather signatures for a constitutional amendment like this one. This kind of self-serving arrogance is exactly why term limitations are so important.

Today marks the first step on the uphill climb to change the system . . . to change it for the old, the young, the rich, the poor, and the middle class . . . the majority, the minorities, and every member of every ethnic, racial, and geographic group in the Sunshine State. It's time to let that sunshine in and get the career politicians and the power brokers out!

It's time for the people who pay for the system by filling out these IRS forms to reclaim government by signing one of these petitions.

The time has come to change the system so that people who really care about the future of our nation and our state can and will compete fairly to represent us. The time has come for true citizens of the republic to take time out from their business, or their profession, or their family, to share their expertise, their intelligence, their commitment and their concern for the public good. That's what democracy was meant to be, and that's what it can be.

We ask that you sign this petition, volunteer your time to help get other signature, and make a financial contribution to Citizens for Limited Political Terms.

Together we can, we *must*, make a difference!

Campaign to limit terms under way

GAINESVILLE SUN
DAILY - 62,000
APR 16 1991

By MARK C. HOLLIS
NYT Regional Newspapers

TALLAHASSEE — The almost-perennial issue of limiting terms of public officeholders returned to the state capital Monday where a campaign to amend the Florida Constitution kicked off.

Orlando businessman Phil Handy is asking citizens to gather 400,000 signatures on a statewide voter petition to have a term limit amendment to the constitution on the 1992 ballot.

"All I can say is that the elected officials don't like it. So, it's probably a good idea," Handy said shortly after announcing the petition campaign he is spearheading almost alone.

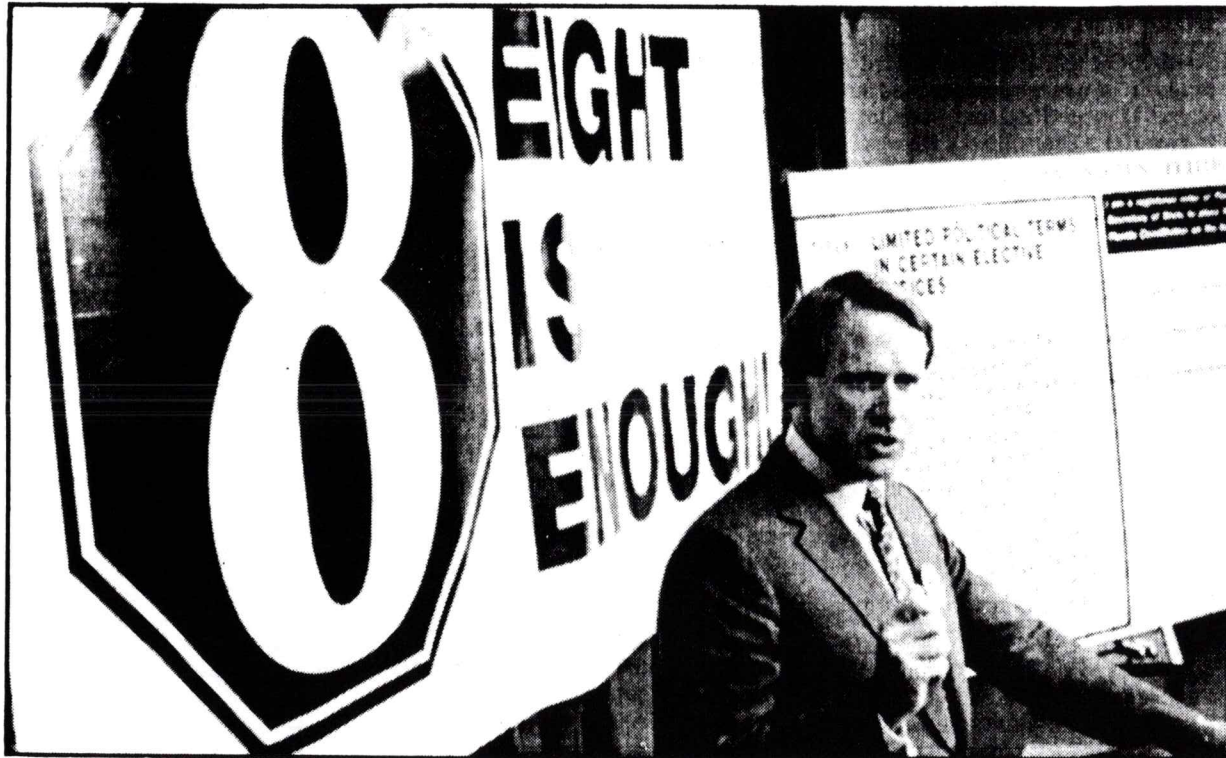
Handy said limiting the amount of time anyone would spend in a single public office will encourage others to get involved in the political system.

"With the re-election rate we have in most offices, I think people feel the system is broken. Challengers don't really get a fair shake," he said.

Handy, who has never served in public office and says he never plans to, proposes prohibiting incumbents from appearing on the ballot if they have served for eight years. Florida House, Senate, Cabinet members, the lieutenant governor, as well as Florida's congressional seats would be limited under the proposal.

Rep. Stan Bainter, R-Eustis, has offered term-limitation proposals in the House during the past four years. His bills, however, recommend a 12-year cap.

"It's between the eighth and 12th years is when your experience and leadership begins to gel," said Bainter, who has served in the House since 1986. "I think this change will probably be made. But it's unfortunate because it should be 12 years instead of eight."



Associated Press

Orlando businessman Phil Handy comments at a Monday news conference as he called on citizens of Florida to join a non-partisan effort called "Eight Is Enough" to place an initiative on the ballot that would limit the number of terms that Florida politicians can hold elected office to a total of eight years.

Handy disagreed.

"I fear that people who want a longer term limitation don't really want term limitations at all," he said. "We feel that the shorter the term, the better."

Big Sun Sen. Karen Thurman, D-Dunnellon, is beginning her third term of office. She also served on the Dunnellon City Council for four consecutive terms.

Thurman said the better way of giving challengers a better shot at holding office is to "level the playing

field and adopting other campaign reforms, not by limiting terms."

Thurman said it is important to keep experienced officials in the legislature to balance the power of bureaucrats in state agencies with better familiarity of issues.

"And don't we really want to leave the choices up to the voting citizens," she said. "The constituents should make the decisions of whether we should stay."

Freshman Rep. Paul Hawkes, R-Crystal River, agreed that other

campaign reforms, such as campaign spending caps, are a better way of giving challengers a better chance to win.

Handy said, "Campaign reform might be the No. 1 issue, but it's not going to happen. These politicians are not going to do anything that makes it more difficult for them to get re-elected."

Mark C. Hollis is a reporter for The Ocala Star-Banner.

MIAMI HERALD
DAILY - 520,000

APR 16 1991

Group says 8 years in office is enough

By TOM FIEDLER
Herald Political Editor

A group calling itself Citizens for Limited Political Terms opened a constitutional amendment drive Monday seeking to cap the length of time Florida's state and federal officeholders can remain in office.

The initiative campaign would, if successful, enable voters in November 1992



Handy

to decide to limit terms of Florida legislators and Cabinet members to eight consecutive years beginning with the next election. The measure would also restrict U.S. House members to eight years, or four consecutive terms, and the state's U.S. senators to 12 years, or two terms.

"Term limits break the death grip that incumbents hold on the reins of political power," said F. Philip Handy, the group's chairman, a prominent Republican fund-raiser and a former adviser to former Gov. Bob Martinez.

He said the effect of the change would be to "replace career politicians with citizen leaders" and open new opportunities for interested citizens to serve in elective office.

To win a spot on the ballot, the proposition, called "Eight is Enough," would have to gather the signatures of nearly 400,000 registered voters across the state. Handy, chairman of Citizens for Limited Political Terms, said in an interview that the petitions would be circulated by volunteers in virtually every county. He said he expected to complete the drive by

the end of this year.

The drive springs from what Handy said is a deepening frustration by voters with a lack of responsiveness from a politicians who appear fixated with perpetuating themselves in office.

In 1990, for example, 96 percent of all U.S. House and Senate incumbents won re-election despite widespread anti-incumbent sentiment. Proponents of term limits say such measures would end what has come to be an almost permanent elected class.

Critics, however, say such an approach could do more harm than good by pushing valued public servants out of office along with the bad. Moreover, they contend that voters already have the power to throw out incumbents who lose touch with them.

If successful, Florida would join a growing list of states placing such caps on politicians holding the same office. Voters in three states — Oklahoma, Colorado and California — wrote term-limitation amendments into their constitutions in 1990.

But so far only Colorado's amendment has sought to limit the terms of federal officeholders, a provision that has come under legal attack. Some scholars say that the requirements for holding federal office are spelled out in the U.S. Constitution and that they cannot be changed by the states.

Proponents of the term limits, however, counter that the courts have long recognized the ability of each state to set restrictions on who can appear on the ballot for federal office.

As a result, the Florida provision is worded to block any politician who has served in the same office for eight years from going on the ballot again.

'Eight is enough' for an office term

Activist revs up a petition campaign to limit the tenure of Florida politicians to eight years.

By Bill Cotterell
Democrat Capitol bureau

Proclaiming that term limits are the only way to "break the death grip" of incumbents, a Republican activist Monday began a petition campaign for a constitutional amendment limiting nearly all Florida politicians to eight years in office.

Phil Handy, an Orlando businessman, dubbed his campaign "Eight is Enough."

He said he hopes to gather the required 363,000 signatures — 8 percent of the statewide turnout in the past election — by August of next year, to put his amendment on the 1992 statewide ballot. If approved by voters, the proposal would require legislators, Cabinet officers and members of the U.S. House to step aside after eight years in office.

United States senators would still have six-year terms, but could only be elected twice in eight years. That would effectively limit them to 12 straight years in office.

Handy said a legislator, Cabinet officer or other official could run for some other office after eight years, or sit out one term and try for a comeback. But, he said at a news conference, unlimited tenure has given incumbents far too much job security — letting them raise money from political-action committees and gain free exposure through their official actions, while non-incumbents struggle for money and name recognition against them every two or four years.

"The rules are really skewed in the incumbent's favor," said Handy. "Term limitations break the death grip that career politicians have on our government."

The Florida House last week defeated a Republican effort to put a 12-year limit on Cabinet and legislative terms. Handy said it is obvious the Legislature — controlled by Democrats 23-17 in the Senate and 73-47 in the House — will never pass a constitutional amendment limiting terms, so he opted for the petition route to the ballot.

That is an uphill method, used successfully in recent years only by highly popular or well-financed interest groups. The state lottery was put on by a petition drive in 1986, medical interests succeeded in getting amendments on the ballot to limit damages in malpractice cases in 1984 and 1988, and casino-gambling initiatives got to the ballot in 1978 and 1986.

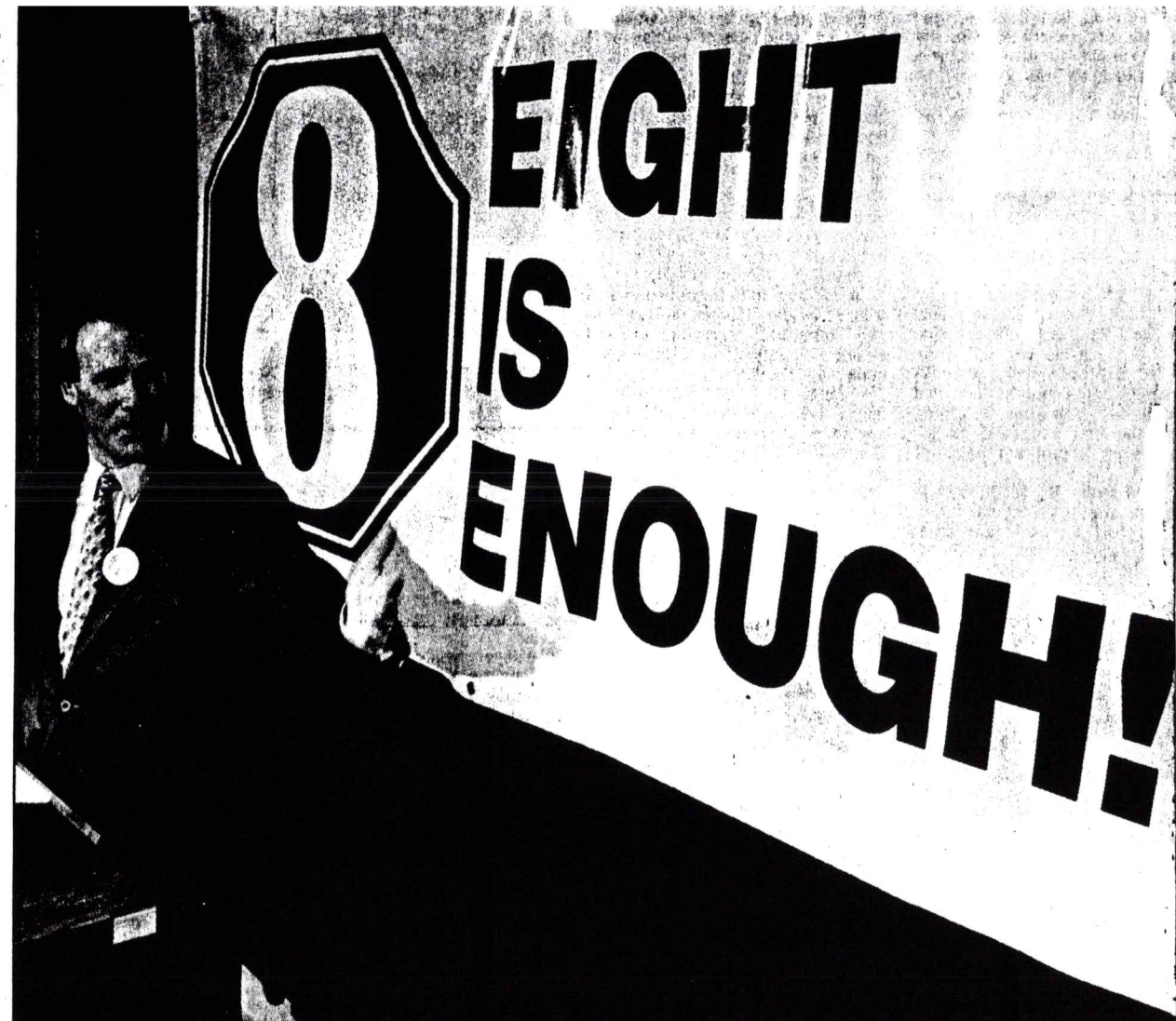
Only the lottery amendment passed muster with voters, though.

Handy, a Republican donor and party activist in Central Florida, said his petition drive was non-partisan. He said term-limiting initiatives have succeeded easily in California, Colorado and Oklahoma.

Handy said he chose eight years, rather than the 12 favored by legislative Republicans, because it is the length of time allotted Florida governors and U.S. presidents. He said he expects a court challenge to congressional term limits if the amendment gets on the ballot, since the U.S. Constitution sets the standards for Congress.

Handy said he expected to raise \$500,000 for the petition campaign. He said he started the drive with \$15,000 of his own money and \$10,000 from supporters.

Opponents of term limits have argued that voters would sacrifice seniority and experience, if they could not re-elect a public official after eight years. Also, opponents contend there is no guarantee the new person would be better than the incumbent — and a pretty good chance he or she would be less



Orlando businessman Phil Handy wants citizens to demand an initiative on the ballot that would limit office terms.

powerful, without seniority.

"We don't know all the results of it and there are some risk associated with it," Handy conceded.

In a related development, the Florida House tentatively approved a bill Monday afternoon making it illegal for organizers of a petition

campaign to pay canvassers on the basis of how many signatures they collect. Salaried campaign staff members, and unpaid volunteers, could still collect signatures for a constitutional amendment.

Some past campaigns have paid 25 or 50 cents per signature.

Rep. Keith Arnold, D-For My-ers, also tried to require all signatures to be witnessed — eliminating petitions gathered by mass mailings or newspaper advertisements. Arnold agreed to remove that provision from his bill (HB 1809) because he felt the Senate

would not go along with anything more than a pay-per-signature bill.

"The Florida Constitution is not and should not be, for sale," said Arnold.

The House is scheduled to take a final vote on his bill today, sending it to the Senate.

Donn Dughi/Special to the Democrat

Group pushes for ballot to limit terms in office

By MICHAEL HAWTHORNE

From Our Capital Bureau

TALLAHASSEE — Vowing to overcome opposition from the political establishment, an Orlando businessman kicked off a campaign Monday for a constitutional amendment limiting the terms of state and federal lawmakers.

Under the proposed amendment, legislators and congressmen elected in Florida could serve only eight years in office. The restriction also would apply to members of the state Cabinet.

"There is a pervasive feeling that the system is broken and that legislators and other people in power are not going to fix it," said Phil Handy, a financier and Republican fund-raiser organizing the campaign. "We need people coming into the political process with fresh and new ideas."

Handy's group, Citizens for Limited Political Terms, is seeking at least 363,000 signatures for a petition to put the initiative on the November 1992 ballot.

If enacted, it would limit Florida members of the U.S. House of Representatives to four two-year terms and U.S. senators to a pair of six-year terms.

State representatives, meanwhile, would be limited to four two-year terms, while state senators and Cabinet members would be restricted to two four-year terms.

Time served by politicians before the amendment became law would not be

counted.

The idea routinely has been shot down by state lawmakers. Legislation that would have limited politicians from serving more than 12 years in office was rejected earlier this year by a House committee.

A bill that would have recommended that the restrictions be applied to congressmen and U.S. senators also was defeated on the House floor.

A constitutional amendment is needed, Handy argued, because of the low turnover rate politicians enjoy. Once entrenched in office, he said, they often lose touch with those who elected them.

"Term limits eliminate career politicians and replace them with the citizen government this nation was founded upon," Handy said.

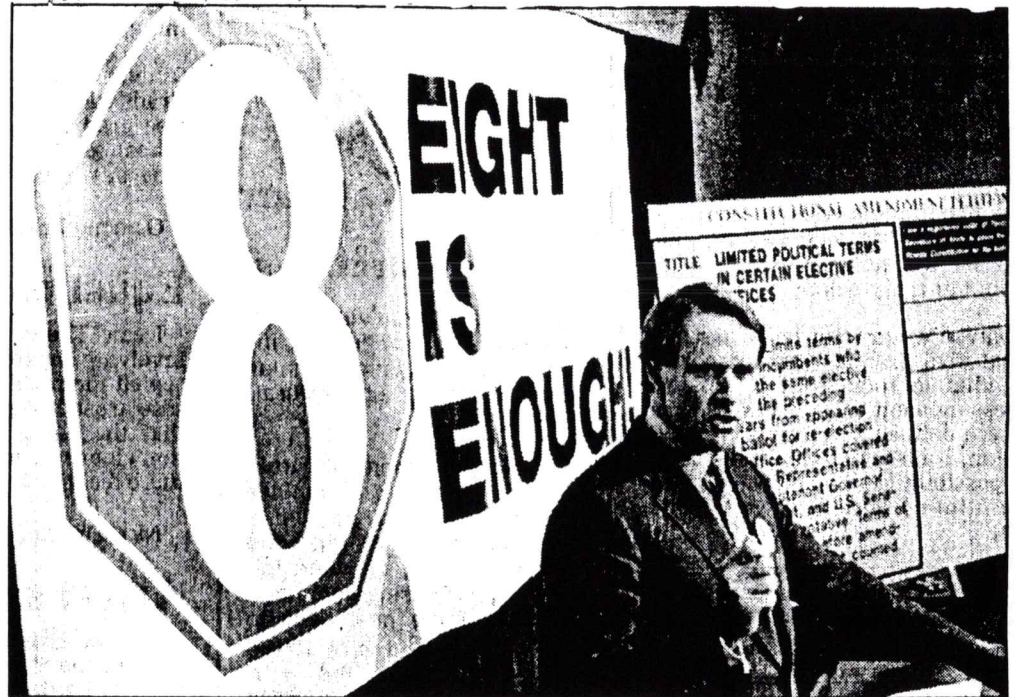
Unlike the legislative proposals, however, the proposed amendment would allow politicians to sit out a term before running for the same office again.

Handy is hoping the success of similar initiatives last year in California, Colorado and Oklahoma will bolster his group's effort in Florida.

Organizers already have received \$10,000 in donations to add to the \$15,000 Handy fronted to get the campaign started.

Handy, a fund-raiser for former Republican Gov. Bob Martinez, denied any personal political aspirations were behind the campaign.

Term limitations have been criticized as



Associated Press Laserphoto

Orlando businessman Phil Handy calls on Floridians to put an initiative on the ballot to limit politicians' terms in office.

a Republican ploy to eliminate the Democratic majority in the state Capitol and in Congress.

"The fact that I am a Republican is not germane to this," Handy said. While questioning some elements of the plan, at least one legislative leader believes the amendment would pass if the group could gather enough signatures to put it on the ballot.

"I would support it, but I still would like to see the limit at 12 years," said House Minority Leader James M. Lombard, R-Or-

prey, sponsor of the term limitation bills.

Lombard argues the extra four years allows lawmakers to accomplish more of their goals. But Handy rejected the legislative proposals, arguing his plan is similar to limits already in place for Florida's governor and the president of the United States.

"If eight years is long enough for Ronald Reagan and (former Gov.) Reubin Askew, then eight years is long enough for members of the Legislature, the Cabinet and the U.S. Congress."

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10A Sun-Sentinel, Tuesday, April 16, 1991

Amendment sought to cap terms

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — A citizens' group frustrated by existing elections laws stacked in favor of incumbent politicians is going to the people with a term-limit initiative.

With a slogan, "Eight is Enough," the sponsors said on Monday they are seeking 363,000 signatures to get a constitutional amendment before the voters next year. The measure would preclude anyone from appearing on the ballot for re-election to the same office after serving eight consecutive years.

"If eight years is long enough for Ronald Reagan to be president . . . and for Reubin Askew to be governor . . . then it's long enough for members of the Legislature, the Cabinet and the U.S. Congress," said Phil Handy, an Orlando businessman and spokesman for the citizens' group.

Handy, a onetime campaign and financial adviser to former Gov. Bob Martinez, is heading the group called Citizens for Limited Political Terms.

The governor is the only statewide elected official faced with existing term limits. The state

constitution prohibits the governor from seeking re-election if he has served more than six consecutive years in office.

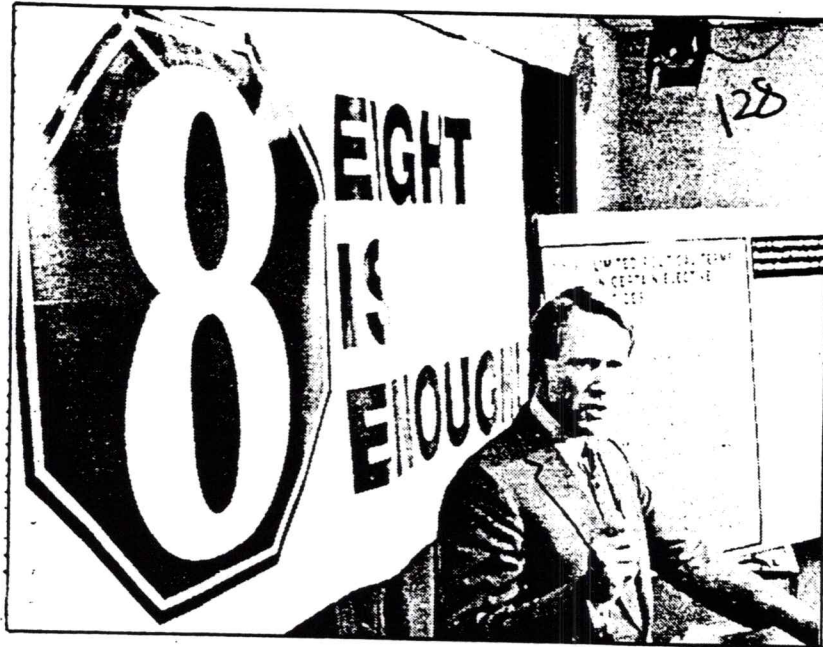
The proposal is sure to run into opposition. The Florida House has already killed two proposed constitutional amendments by Republican legislators that would have established term limits, and Democrat Gov. Lawton Chiles dislikes the idea of capping terms.

"He has not supported term limits in the past," said Julie Anbender, the governor's press secretary. "He believes there is a built-in term limit called the voters."

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APR 16 1991



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Winter Park businessman Phil Handy pleads his case for limiting Florida politicians' terms in elected office to eight consecutive years.

Petition drive launched to limit re-election bids

By John C. Van Gieson

SENTINEL TALLAHASSEE BUREAU

TALLAHASSEE — Saying it might help Floridians find a modern-day Thomas Jefferson or George Washington, Winter Park financier Phil Handy launched a drive Monday to limit the terms of elected officials.

Handy's proposal would prohibit governors, Cabinet members, legislators and members of Congress from running for re-election if they had served eight consecutive years in the same office.

That would amount to a 12-year limit for U.S. senators, who serve six-year terms, and eight years for all other officials listed in the proposed constitutional amendment.

Handy, a Republican, said he

will launch a petition drive under the banner Eight is Enough to obtain the 363,000 signatures he needs to place his proposal on the 1992 ballot.

Limiting terms would restore public confidence in government by returning to the concept of citizen politicians who do not hold office as a career, Handy said.

"Who knows how many Jefferson and Washingtons are out there willing to participate in the process but don't because of the power of incumbency?" Handy said.

Handy's proposal would allow officials to run for an office they had held for eight years after they sat out one election. He said it would allow eight-year incumbents to run for the same office if they did so as write-in candidates.



*Remarks from Phil Handy, Chairman
Tallahassee, Florida
July 22, 1991*

Over 50,000 Florida voters have put career politicians on notice -- they've said Eight is Enough!

Just 90 days ago, Citizens for Limited Political Terms launched a voter petition drive to bring citizen government back to Florida. Our goal is to have a term limit amendment to the Florida Constitution placed on the 1992 ballot. I'm happy to report that we are well on our way toward our goal. You can count on our citizen petition drive to succeed so that the people of Florida can have their say on this important issue.

Limiting political terms is not merely a popular idea. It's becoming a reality.

And you don't have to take our word for it. Just listen to what the people of Florida are saying. Over 50,000 Florida voters have registered a complaint against politics as usual. They want what our founding fathers wanted...limited government.

They're tired of the endless cycle of incumbency, and what it has done to our political system. They're appalled by sex scandals and lobbyist paid vacations. And they're sick of paying higher taxes so that politicians can dole out hush-money and give themselves and their staffs fat pay raises.

Florida voters are not alone. Voters in many other states across America understand the simple fact that American Government isn't working very well. Not for Democrats, not for Republicans, not for Americans. In 1990 voters in California, Colorado and Oklahoma did something about it. They voted to limit political terms, just like term limits that have been in place for decades for President as well as the governors of 28 states.

Through the help of volunteers and supporters across Florida, we believe that we will be one of a dozen states to have a term limit amendment on the 1992 ballot.

We know that the people of Florida -- young and old --- male and female --- rich and poor --- black and white --- liberal and conservative -- Republican and Democrat -- want term limits.

Just look at Jacksonville's election results of two months ago. In May the people of Jacksonville voted to the tune of 82 percent in favor of eight-year limits on the terms of local officials.

You can also detect a ground swell of support for term limits by taking a look at the national media. Term Limits have been supported by national publications from the liberal New Republic to the conservative Wall Street Journal. Just last week the Wall Street Journal ran a story with the headline, "Movement to Limit Lawmakers' Terms Revs Up and Heads Toward Congress." It said that "... members of Congress can see a storm called 'term limits' gathering across the nation -- a storm that may be heading straight their way."

Today we celebrate the enlistment of 50,000 registered voters who have already responded to our call to action. We thank our 1,000 active volunteers and 500 contributors. This growing army of supporters is part of a broad-based, grass-roots organization made up of honest, hard-working citizens from every walk of life.

This also marks the day when the State of Florida must listen to us! We have now gathered over 10 percent of the signatures needed to have our amendment placed on the ballot. Once these signatures have been verified by local supervisors of elections, our amendment language can go before the Attorney General and Supreme Court to ensure that it is ready to be placed on the ballot. We're going directly from this press conference to meet with the Attorney General to discuss the upcoming review of our amendment language.

This is what we're going to tell him: The people of Florida want to be heard on this issue -- and since the legislature didn't give us the opportunity to speak -- we're going around them. We are for real. We've now paid our entry fee. We are the voice of the Florida voters -- and WE WILL BE HEARD.

We must place new limits on government -- limits on the almost permanent ruling class that congress and the legislature have become. It's time for politicians to have the opportunity to live under the laws that they enact. It's time for our political system to return to public service, not self service.

Thomas Jefferson issued a warning. He said that if we failed to limit the terms politicians can serve, our liberty would be in danger. He was right. Today our political system is controlled by long term incumbents who almost always win. In the U.S. House of Representatives, 97 percent of the incumbents who seek reelection win. In the Florida House the reelection rate is 93 percent.

What would Jefferson think if he knew that "the People's House" would have less turnover than the British House of Lords and the Soviet Politburo?

Term limits break the death grip that entrenched incumbents hold on the reigns of political power, provide a return to the citizen government envisioned by our founding fathers and give opportunities for more citizens to participate in the political process.

Term limits restore competition to elections and expand voters' choices. Competition in business is good for the economy and competition in politics is essential to democracy.

Term limits will take power away from lobbyists, deep-pocketed special interests and entrenched bureaucrats who have cozy relationships with lawmakers and give power back to the people -- where it belongs.

Some people who would rather keep the system the way it is try to tell us how much experience we will lose. But the people of Florida know where all of this so called "experience" has gotten us. Today we have the most experienced congress in our nation's history.

What do we have to show for it? Rising deficits, ethics scandals, high taxes, unrestrained bureaucracy and a political system dominated by special interest influence.

For these reasons the people of Florida have begun a revolution. Through Citizens for Limited Political Terms, we will gather 500,000 signatures on a statewide petition to have a term limitation amendment placed on next year's ballot. The amendment will limit State House, Senate and Cabinet and Florida's Congressional delegation to eight consecutive years in office.

Even though we're on the road to victory, we still have a long way to go until next November. So today we're issuing a call for more signatures, more volunteers and more contributors. We urge all those interested to join the 50,000 Florida voters who have put career politicians on notice by calling us at 1-800-289-8812.

Together, we will make a difference!

JUL 23 1991

COMING TO TERMS



Orlando businessman Phil Handy, chairman of the Citizens for Limited Political Terms group, tells reporters Monday in Tallahassee that his group has 50,000 signatures toward putting a term limitation measure on the 1992 ballot.

Group passes first hurdle in limiting political careers

By Jackie Hallifax
Associated Press Writer

TALLAHASSEE — A drive to limit the terms of Florida politicians has moved closer to the November 1992 ballot, organizers said Monday, announcing that they've passed their first major hurdle.

The slogan of the petition initiative is "eight is enough."

"Limiting political terms is not merely a popular idea," Orlando businessman Phil Handy, who is leading the drive, told reporters at a press conference. "It's becoming a reality here in Florida."

To get a proposed constitutional amendment before voters through the initiative process, supporters must have their measure reviewed by the state after collecting 10 percent of the signatures needed to get on the ballot.

Citizens for Limited Political Terms has reached that point, according to Handy,

who was finance chairman for former Gov. Bob Martinez's gubernatorial campaign in 1986.

"We are for real," Handy said. "We've now paid our entry fee. We are the voice of the people of Florida and we will be heard."

Handy, said he was sure the measure would pass the requirement that it deal with only one subject.

The amendment, which will go to Attorney General Bob Butterworth and probably the state Supreme Court for review, would limit state officials, including the six Cabinet members and 160 legislators, to eight consecutive years in office.

It would also limit the terms of the 19 Florida members of the U.S. House of Representatives to eight years. Florida's two U.S. senators would be limited to 12 years.

JUL 2 3 1991

Drive To Set Limits To Terms Advances

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Only one state — Colorado — has limited the terms that can be served by the politicians it sends to Congress. Two other states, California and Oklahoma, have limited the terms their statewide office holders can serve.

But Handy said he thought Florida would be one of a dozen states in 1992 to put restrictions on the length of time a politician can hold an office.

Handy cited statistics to support his argument for term limits: The re-election rate of the U.S. House of Representatives is 97 percent and the rate in the Florida House is 93 percent. Currently, 69 of the 160 members of the Legislature and 12 of Florida's 19 congressional members have served more than eight years.

But Randy Lewis, spokesman for Florida House Speaker T.K. Wetherell, D-Daytona Beach, also cited statistics in his argument against limits. The average length of service in the House over the last 40 years has been just over eight years, according to Lewis.

"Not quite pointing to a horrible horrendous problem, is it?" Lewis asked.



Handy

JUL 23 1991



Associated Press

Handy says his Citizens for Limited Political Terms is 'for real'

Push to limit terms gains steam in drive for ballot

Organizers say the campaign has collected 10 percent of the signatures needed to put the issue before the voters.

By Jackie Hallifax
Associated Press

A drive to limit the terms of Florida politicians has moved closer to the November 1992 ballot, organizers said Monday, announcing that they've passed their first major hurdle.

The slogan of the petition initiative is "Eight is Enough."

"Limiting political terms is not merely a popular idea," Orlando businessman Phil Handy, who is leading the drive, said at a Tallahassee news conference. "It's becoming a reality here in Florida."

To get a proposed constitutional amendment before voters through the initiative process, supporters must have their measure reviewed by the state after collecting 10 percent of the signatures needed to get on the ballot.

Please see LIMITS, 4A

LIMITS/ 'Eight is Enough' has gathered signatures from all 67 counties

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"Not quite pointing to a horrible horrendous problem, is it?" Lewis asked.

Handy said that limiting the terms of legislators will curtail the influence of staff members and lobbyists; Lewis said the opposite will occur.

In the past three months, Handy's group has collected more than 50,000 signatures. Although signatures have been collected in all 67 counties, Orlando, the Tampa Bay area and Broward County all showed particularly strong support.

Limits on terms sought

Petition effort moves ahead to place limits on political service on the 1992 ballot.

By STEPHANIE TRIPP
Tribune Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE — A group that wants to limit Cabinet officers and state legislators to eight years in office took a major step Monday toward placing the issue on the November 1992 ballot.

"We're here to serve notice on the state of Florida that things are going to be different," said Phil Handy, an Orlando businessman who leads Citizens for Limited Political Terms.

The group announced Monday it had obtained 50,000 signatures, more than 10 percent of the 363,886 it needs to collect by mid-1992 to put the proposed amendment to the state constitution on the ballot. The group now has enough signatures for its petition drive to be reviewed by the state.

The petition puts Florida in the company of 16 other states where groups are pushing term-limitation initiatives for 1992. Voters have approved term limitations in California, Colorado and Oklahoma.

The Florida group — which calls its effort "Eight is Enough" — wants to limit terms of office for Cabinet members, state legislators and Florida's 19 representatives to the U.S. House of Representatives to eight years and the terms of U.S. senators to two six-year terms.

Already, Florida's constitution limits governors to two four-year terms.

"Term limits break the death grip that entrenched incumbents



Tribune photograph by COLIN HACKLEY

Phil Handy, an Orlando businessman organizing citizens seeking limits on political terms, announces in Tallahassee Monday the gathering of 50,000 signatures on a petition.

Political term limits sought with petition

■ From Page 1

hold on the reins of political power, provide a return to the citizen government envisioned by our founding fathers and give opportunities for more citizens to participate in the political process," said Handy, who was finance chairman for the successful 1986 gubernatorial campaign of Republican Bob Martinez.

But opponents of term limitation argue that voters can limit terms with the ballot box. By making the most experienced elected officials ineligible, "you are going to turn policymaking over to the bureaucrats," said Rachel Dale, spokeswoman for Let the People Decide, a Washington, D.C.-based group that opposes term limits.

But Handy disagrees.

"The longer politicians stay in office, the more they depend on staffs and lobbyists," he said.

The "Eight is Enough" drive is being received coolly by most of Florida's leading politicians,

among them Democratic House Speaker T.K. Wetherell. The Democratic National Committee opposes term limits, calling them a "ploy" by Republicans to attack Democratic majorities in Congress and state legislatures.

Republicans, including President George Bush, have supported efforts to limit terms of office in Congress.

Still, Handy denied that his group has any partisan agenda.

"We think that it's not a partisan issue," he said. "We think that it just delivers power back to the people."

Seven Florida lawmakers proposed term-limitation bills during the 1991 legislative session, but none of them made it to a floor vote. All the proposals were introduced by Republicans except one, which was sponsored by Sen. Robert Wexler, a Boca Raton Democrat who was elected to the Senate last year.

"Quite frankly, I don't see why it's perceived as a partisan issue," Wexler said. "To me it's just an issue of good government."

JUL 23 1991

Petition drive has more than enough

By Stephanie Williamson

SENTINEL TALLAHASSEE BUREAU

TALLAHASSEE — Winter Park businessman Phil Handy on Monday submitted to Attorney General Bob Butterworth 50,000 petition signatures needed to get a ruling on a proposal to limit the terms of most state officials to eight years.

Handy's organization, called 8 is Enough, needs about 364,000 verified signatures to get the proposal on the November 1992 ballot.

But by submitting at least 10 percent of the needed signatures, Handy's group can get the Florida Supreme Court to rule on whether the proposed constitutional amendment is legal.

"I'm happy to report that we are well on our way toward our goal," Handy said.

The proposal would limit the terms of the governor, Cabinet members, state legislators and U.S. representatives to eight years in the same office. U.S.

senators, who serve six-year terms, would be limited to 12 years.

Terms of office before the amendment took effect would not be counted.

Handy said he has been collecting signatures for three months, and voters have been eager to sign his petitions.

"They're tired of the endless cycle of incumbency and what it has done to our political system," he said. "They're appalled by sex scandals and lobbyist-paid vacations. And they're sick of paying higher taxes so that politicians can dole out hush money and give themselves and their staffs fat pay raises."

Randy Lewis, spokesman for House Speaker T.K. Wetherell, charged Handy was spearheading the term-limit movement to launch a political career.

Handy denied that he is interested in running for office. "This is not a Phil Handy issue," he said. "This is a Florida voter issue."

The toll-free number for more information on 8 is Enough is 1-800-289-8812.



Handy, who gathered enough signatures to get a ruling on the proposed amendment's legality, denies ambitions for political office.

JUL 23 1991

'Eight is enough' focus of term-limit drive

TALLAHASSEE (AP) — With 50,000 signatures collected in the last three months, organizers of a drive to limit the terms of Florida politicians say they are well on their way to the November 1992 ballot.

"Limiting political terms is not merely a popular idea," Orlando businessman Phil Handy, who is leading the drive, told reporters at a press conference. "It's becoming a reality here in Florida."

The slogan adopted by Citizens for Limited Political Terms is "eight is enough."

The proposed constitutional amendment the group is backing would limit state officials, including the six Cabinet members and 160 legislators, to eight consecutive years in office.

It would also limit the terms of the 19 Florida members of the U.S. House of Representatives to eight years. Florida's two U.S. senators would be limited to 12 years.

Only one state — Colorado — has limited the terms that can be served by the politicians it sends to Con-

gress. Two other states, California and Oklahoma, have limited the terms their statewide office holder can serve.

However, Handy said he thought Florida would be one of a dozen states in 1992 to put restrictions on the length of time a politician can hold an office.

Handy, finance chairman for former Gov. Bob Martinez's 1986 gubernatorial campaign, cited statistics to support his argument for term limits: The re-election rate of the U.S. House of Representatives is 97 percent and the rate in the Florida House is 93 percent. Currently, 69 of the 160 members of the Legislature and 12 of Florida's 19 congressional members have served more than eight years.

But Randy Lewis, spokesman for Florida House Speaker T.K. Wetzel, D-Daytona Beach, also cited statistics in his argument against limits. The average length of service in the House over the last 40 years has been just over eight years, according to Lewis.



Orlando businessman Phil Handy, is leading the term limit drive.

AP



Citizens for Limited Political Terms
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Orlando, Florida 32802-4888
(407) 839-5888 or 1-800-289-8812
FAX: (407) 839-4360

*REMARKS BY PHIL HANDY, CHAIRMAN
November 8, 1991*

Today we called on the Supreme Court of Florida to protect the right of the people to petition government. We have called on this high court to do what two other state supreme courts have already done -- let the people decide the issue of term limits.

Today's hearing was about two procedural requirements that initiatives must adhere to in order to be placed on Florida's ballot -- the single subject rule and ballot summary sufficiency. Our language meets these requirements. This fact has already been attested to by the Florida Attorney General, and we're confident that the Florida Supreme Court will agree, and allow this petition of the people to continue.

Today marks another milestone for our campaign to return government to the people. Today we have exceeded the 100,000 signature mark. 100,000 Florida voters have put career politicians on notice -- they've said Eight is Enough! These 100,000 have called on the State of Florida to put our term limit proposal on the 1992 ballot. Today, on their behalf, we called on the Supreme Court of Florida to dismiss the cynical arguments of our opponents, and let the people decide this critical issue.

Today we got to see first hand who the opposition is, and how far they are willing to stoop to deny the will of the people. Three briefs were filed against us in this court. Two were written and filed at the expense of the taxpayers. Think about it. 100,000 Floridians have signed petitions calling for the Eight is Enough amendment to be placed on the ballot, and entrenched incumbents are using our tax dollars to try to deny the voters their say.

Congressman Larry Smith used the top Congressional staff lawyer to file his brief. By doing so he received at least \$25,000 worth of legal services at taxpayer expense. We have called on him to repay this amount to the U.S. Government, but have received no reply.

Eight Is Enough
November 8, 1991
Page Two

The National Conference of State Legislatures, which is supported by tax-paid membership dues, filed the second brief against us.

The third brief was filed by a cadre of political insiders who have benefitted politically and financially from the reign of career politicians. This who's who of Florida's "good ole boy" network has the audacity to hide under the slogan "Let the People Decide." Ironically, they were here to try and keep the people from deciding the issue of term limits at the ballot box.

They just don't get it. That's *our* message today. LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE.

Let's get this term limit amendment on the ballot and let the people decide the issue once and for all. This week's elections in Washington state demonstrate that voter approval is not automatic. Their six-year, retroactive term limit proposal was simply more than many term limit supporters could stomach.

Our opponents don't find comfort in Tuesday's vote in Washington State. They know that if our 8-year proposal had been on the ballot in Washington State, it would have passed with flying colors. That's why we're confident, and why they're trying to keep the people from having our say.

Today we thank the 4,000 volunteers and the 800 contributors who are making term limits a reality in Florida.

Through the work of this growing army of supporters, we will let the people decide the issue of term limits!

Together we will make a difference!

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Court hears arguments on political-term limits

By JOHN KENNEDY
Tallahassee Bureau

TALLAHASSEE — The nationwide push to oust career politicians has hit the Florida Supreme Court, which heard arguments Friday on whether state voters may limit the terms of legislators, the Cabinet and members of Congress.

"The court will decide, but I think it will be hard pressed not to let the people decide," said Phil Handy, an Orlando business executive and chairman of Florida's term-limit campaign.

Handy, a Republican Party activist, spoke outside the Supreme Court chambers where justices heard almost an hour's worth of arguments from attorneys on both sides of the issue.

Proponents want the seven-member court to give its go-ahead to the wording

used on the term-limit proposal planned for the November 1992 ballot.

Florida is among a dozen states facing possible term limits on the 1992 ballot.

Reports of Congress members kiting checks and skipping out on restaurant bills has fueled the term-limit campaign. Polls also show a growing public frustration with elective officials.

In Florida, the movement also gained steam after two dozen current and former Legislators paid fines to settle criminal charges involving free trips and gifts from lobbyists.

Term-limit supporters — who have dubbed their campaign Eight is Enough — want to restrict state legislators, Cabinet members and U.S. House members to no more than eight years in

SEE TERMS / 16A



AP photo

Phil Handy, chairman of Florida's term-limit campaign, explains issue on Friday.

TERMS

FROM PAGE 1A

High court hears arguments to limit politicians' terms

U.S. senators, who normally serve six-year terms, would be limited to two terms, or a total of 12 years.

More than 100,000 petition signatures have already been collected out of the 364,000 needed to put the measure before voters, Handy said.

Opponents, however, urged justices to strike down the proposal. Attempts by the state to limit federal officeholders or restrict voters' rights are against the U.S. Constitution, critics said.

In addition, they said the measure violates the state Constitution's "single-subject rule" for ballot items because it would affect both state and federal officeholders.

"The people of Florida have an absolute right to amend the Con-

stitution... but it is also sure that they have to do it one subject at a time," said Arthur England, a former state Supreme Court justice representing groups opposed to term limits.

Supporters of the measure, however, denied that there was any single-subject problem. The initiative deals with only one subject — term limits, attorneys told justices.

Cleta Deatherage Mitchell also said such limits "are a minimal infringement on a voter's right to choose a candidate."

If the limits are adopted by voters, the time clock would begin running next November. Current officeholders would not be penalized for the years they have already served.

An effort to limit terms and unseat incumbents — including U.S. House Speaker Tom Foley — was defeated this week by voters in Washington state. California, Colorado and Oklahoma enacted term limits last year, but only Colorado's affects its congressional delegation — and not until the year

2002.

The Florida Supreme Court ruling may not come until early next year. But it could be the first to decide whether states have the authority to enact laws affecting federal officeholders.

In a controversial move, the U.S. House has already weighed in on the side of those opposed to Florida's term-limit proposal.

The U.S. House voted this week to allow its general counsel to file a brief on behalf of three South Florida Democrats — U.S. Reps. Larry Smith of Hollywood, Bill Lehman of Biscayne Park, and Dante Fascell of south Dade.

Handy has blasted Smith for ordering the House counsel to prepare the document. Handy claims the congressmen basically received \$25,000 worth of legal services at taxpayer expense, an attack Smith dismisses.

Handy said Eight is Enough has raised about \$190,000 in its effort to get term limits on the ballot. About \$102,000, however, is in loans Handy has made to the campaign.

Term-limit initiative challenged in Florida

Court asked: Is ballot plan legal?

By **ELLEN MCGARRAHAN**
Herald Capital Bureau

TALLAHASSEE — The angry grass-roots movement to cut short the careers of politicians surfaced Friday in the Florida Supreme Court.

If the Citizens for Limited Political Terms get their way, Floridians will decide next fall whether to bar Sunshine State politicians from running for reelection on the ballot after eight years in office.

But opponents tried to derail the quest for term limits in Friday's precedent-setting hearing before the state's high court. A key question in Florida and other states is whether a state can put limits on the terms of federal office holders. It's an issue no court has ever ruled on.

The idea of term limits is gaining momentum nationally — proposed for the ballots of 14 states in 1992. It faces stiff opposition in Florida, where an array of powerful politicians and former office holders have lined up to try to prevent the proposal from even appearing on the ballot.

And at least two of the opponents — the National Conference of State Legislatures and current Congressman Larry Smith of Hollywood — are using taxpayer-financed programs to fight the term-limit proposal.

"We're carrying to a new extreme the idea of the citizen legislature in Florida," said Arthur England, former state Supreme Court justice, arguing against the term-limit ballot proposal.

"If this proposal gets on the ballot here in Florida it will pass," predicted Phil Handy, leader of the term-limit initiative.

Handy was a chief fund-raiser for former Gov. Bob Martinez in 1986. A Republican financier, he and his group — whose slogan is "Eight is Enough" — has collected 112,000

Bid to limit terms challenged in court

TERMS, FROM 1A

of the 364,000 needed signatures to place a term-limit question on the Florida ballot next year.

What the group wants is this: an amendment to the state Constitution barring any member of the Legislature, the Cabinet, or those Florida sends to the U.S. House and Senate from appearing on the ballot for reelection after serving eight consecutive years in office.

In Florida, as in other states where the issue has been discussed, the argument over term limits pits two very different ideas of how democracy works against each other.

Proponents of the limits say that the problem with American politics is that officials have lost touch with the people they represent. Were there fewer career politicians and more citizen legislators, the proponents say, government would be more responsive to the needs of the nation.

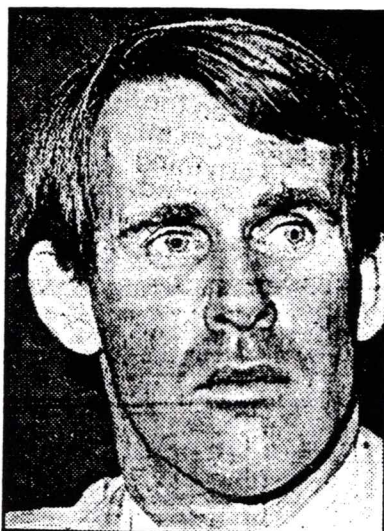
Incumbents' 'death grip'?

"Term limits break the death grip incumbents hold on elective office," said John Sowinski, executive director for Eight is Enough.

But opponents of the limits say just the opposite will occur. Rather than producing a system more responsive to the people, term limits will produce a government run by the staff and lobbyists, for the office holders themselves will lack the experience or know-how to be effective, the opponents say. And besides, they argue, voters already have the ability to impose term limits — at the ballot box.

"Term limits will reduce the quality and effectiveness of state legislatures," said Karl Kurtz, director of state services for the National Council of State Legislatures.

Florida's proposal is one of 14 nationwide that may go before voters in 1992. Similar term-limit initiatives are under way in Arizona, Arkansas, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Wyoming.



EFFORT'S LEADER: Phil Handy says opposition now visible.

Term limits have not met with unanimous success. Tuesday, voters in Washington state defeated a term-limit proposal that would have retroactively imposed a 12-year cap on state and federal office-holders.

Three states approved limits

But three states — California, Oklahoma and Colorado — have approved term limits. Of the three, only Colorado included members of Congress. That measure doesn't fully take effect until 2002 and has not been challenged in court.

But the question of including federal office holders came before the Florida Supreme Court at Friday's hearing.

The hearing was supposed to focus on a narrower issue. Under Florida law, proposed amendments to the constitution may not appear

on the ballot if they attempt to roll two or more subjects under one heading. The purpose of the Supreme Court hearing was for the justices to review the "single subject" provision and to rule on whether the proposed amendment met that requirement.

But while proponents of the amendment attempted to keep the court discussion strictly on the narrow ballot-eligibility requirement, opponents of the amendment — led by former Supreme Court Justice Arthur England — told the court it should rule on the constitutionality of the amendment now, before it appears on the ballot.

"You have to ask what's involved here, what are we doing to government," England argued.

Supporting England in his argument were two briefs filed at the request of prominent lawmakers, at taxpayer expense.

Key Floridians fight plan

One, prepared for U.S. Rep. Larry Smith, who represents north Dade and south Broward, was written by the general counsel of the U.S. House; the other was prepared at the request of Florida House Speaker T.K. Wetherell and Florida Senate President Gwen Margolis by the National Council of State Legislatures, which gets 43 percent of its budget from taxpayers, and \$149,000 from Florida each year.

After the arguments before the court, Handy pointed to the briefs as proof of the need for the term limits.

"Today we got to see first hand who the opposition is, and how far they're willing to stoop to deny the will of the people," he said. "Entrenched incumbents are using our tax dollars to try to deny the voters their say."

But that free-speech argument, at least, was one that cut both ways on Friday.

The term-limit proponents, England said, don't want people to know the whole story before voting to amend the state constitution.

"They want the voters to vote on it," he said, "without knowing that later on there could be a challenge."

DEC 6 1991

State high court: Term-limit amendment acceptable for ballot

By **BILL BERGSTROM**
Of The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Supreme Court cleared the way Thursday for a petition drive to limit members of Congress, the Cabinet and the Legislature to eight years in office.

The Court said a proposed constitutional amendment meets requirements to go on the November 1992 ballot if petitioners obtain the required 364,000 signatures on petitions by August.

They've obtained more than 135,000 since April, said Phil Handy, a Republican Winter Park businessman who chairs Citizens for Limited Political Terms and heads the group's "Eight is Enough" initiative.

With the court ruling, Handy told a news conference, "Deep-pocketed special interests lost, and the ever-entrenched 'good ol' boy' network that wants to keep term limits off the ballot lost."

The petitioners say politicians in office too long can become preoccupied with reelection and beholden to special interests. The president as well as Florida's governor and lieutenant governor are already limited to two terms, they argue.

The court didn't rule on the validity of term limits, but only issued an advisory opinion that the proposed amendment meets requirements that it deal with a single subject and the proposed ballot language is clear.

"So it will go on the ballot," said a foe, nine-term U.S. Rep. Larry Smith, D-Hollywood.

Opposition has been led by Smith and Americans for Ballot Freedom, a branch of a Washington-based group fighting term limits nationally.

Participants nationally include former U.S. House Speaker Carl Albert of Oklahoma, former Sens. William Proxmire of Wisconsin and Adlai Stevenson of Il-

linois, and former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young.

Voters in California, Colorado and Oklahoma approved term limits for state officials last year. California's Supreme Court upheld that state's limits, but they don't limit federal terms.

Florida Attorney General Bob Butterworth asked the state Supreme Court to rule on the contention by amendment foes that Florida's constitution can't limit congressional terms because they are set by the U.S. Constitution.

"Most people want all career politicians to have term limits," Handy argued.

"The court said that is not for them to decide," Assistant Attorney General Pete Antonacci said. He predicted the amendment would be challenged if adopted and the question would be decided in federal court.

Smith said there would be a strong campaign against the amendment and also predicted a federal court challenge if it is adopted. He said a blanket limit isn't needed.

"I personally feel that the people have the right to limit any elective officeholder's term. In the House, where we serve two years, they can do that rather easily," Smith said.

The Court ruled that the amendment dealt with the single subject of limiting elected officials' terms, and that other items in the state constitution apply to both state and national officeholders. Florida's "ethics in gov-

ernment" amendment, for example, requires financial disclosure by all elected constitutional officers, the court said.

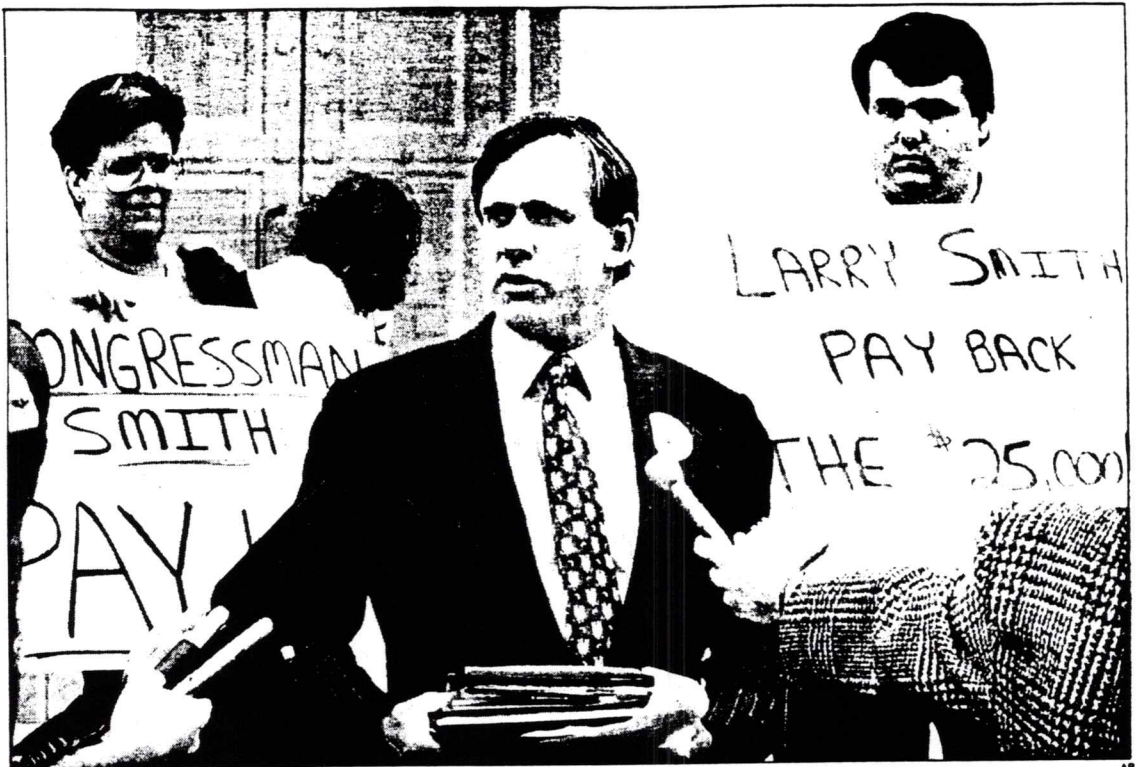
Justice Ben Overton dissented, saying voters are entitled to a ruling before the amendment goes on the ballot on whether it would violate the U.S. Constitution.

Justice Gerald Kogan also dissented. He disputed the one-subject ruling, arguing that terms of state and U.S. officeholders are separate questions.



Associated Press Laserphoto

Phil Handy, chairman of Citizens for Limited Political Terms, addresses a news conference Thursday.



With demonstrators behind him protesting Florida Congressman Larry Smith's use of taxpayers' money to fight the case, Phil Handy, chairman of Florida's 'Eight is Enough' term-limitation initiative, talks to reporters Friday in Tallahassee.

Term-limit battle moves to court

Opponents of 8-year cap on serving in office work to strike down initiative

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — The battleground over term limits for Florida legislators, Cabinet officials and members of Congress reached the state Supreme Court as opponents asked Friday to keep the initiative off the 1992 ballot.

The attorney for a politically well-connected group called Americans for Ballot Freedom asked the justices to decide broad constitutional questions before the proposed eight-year term amendment is submitted to voters next November.

"This case is changing the way our Legislature, our executive branch and our federal legislature is going to be operating," said Miami lawyer Arthur England, a former chief justice of the court. "This goes to the heart of how government operates."

Winter Park businessman Phil Handy, whose "Eight is Enough" campaign has obtained 112,000 of the 364,000 needed signatures, said the court should only address narrow questions of whether the proposed ballot language deals with one subject and is clearly written as the state constitution requires.

"We're confident the Supreme Court will agree we do meet the tests," Handy told reporters.

The initiative would prevent members of the Florida Legislature, the six independently elected Cabinet members and Florida members of Congress from appearing on the ballot after serving eight years. The governor

and lieutenant governor currently can serve only a pair of four-year terms.

The measure is not retroactive like the one defeated Tuesday by voters in Washington state.

No court has passed judgment on whether federal officials may be included in state term-limit initiatives. California's Supreme Court recently upheld a term-limit proposition, but it affected only state officials.

Voters in California, Colorado and Oklahoma last year approved term limits on state officials, and several similar initiatives are pending in other states and cities.

England, whose group includes former Supreme Court justices, Cabinet officers and prominent ex-legislators, argued that inclusion of the federal officials flatly violates the U.S. Constitution and that the initiative runs afoul of the single-subject rule by touching separate branches of government.

"This proposal is doubly faulted for violating what I think are three subjects . . . and it cuts across constitutional lines," England said.

Justice Ben Overton appeared to agree the court should issue a broad opinion on the constitutionality of the proposed amendment.

"The reason for this proceeding is for this court to consider constitutional issues . . . before a lot of time and money is spent," Overton said.

Michael Rosen, an attorney for Handy's Citizens for Limited Political Terms, and

Cleta Mitchell of the Term Limits Legal Institute countered that the court should not leap ahead of voters to decide the constitutional questions.

Justice Rosemary Barkett, however, asked if it wasn't important to address the issues now because the initiative affects the foundations of democracy.

"Aren't we really talking about the right of the people to elect who they want to, even though that person has been in office?" she asked.

"The proper way to raise it is after the public has had an opportunity to decide these issues on their own," said Mitchell, a former state representative from Oklahoma.

Rosen argued that the initiative doesn't violate the single-subject provision because it has a clear "oneness of purpose" defined in previous court decisions on proposed constitutional amendments.

"It's clear there is a logical and rational oneness of purpose," he said. "People are always going to have differing opinions as to the pros and cons of a particular issue."

The justices did not issue an immediate ruling and did not indicate when they planned to.

U.S. Rep. Larry Smith, D-Fla., and the National Conference of State Legislatures also have filed briefs opposing the initiative. Handy and Republicans have criticized Smith for having a publicly paid congressional attorney handle his court papers.

Court looks at limits

Opponents say the petition to limit terms of officeholders violates both the Florida and U.S. constitutions.

By Susannah Lyle
Democrat Capitol bureau

A case argued before the Florida Supreme Court on Friday could break legal ground on the controversial subject of limiting terms of elected representatives, including members of Congress.

Opponents of the "Eight Is Enough" petition drive argued that its proposal to limit state legislators, Cabinet officers and members of Congress to eight years in office violates both the Florida and U.S. constitutions.

But supporters, who have gathered 112,000 of the 364,000 signatures needed to get the measure on next November's ballot, urged the court to let voters decide first whether they wanted term limits before passing on their legality.

"We believe this particular proposal has a logical and natural oneness of purpose, and that is to limit the terms of the highest elected political officials in Florida," attorney Michael Rosen said.

The case came before the justices on a technical, legal question: whether the proposed ballot language meets the state's constitutional requirement that it be limited to a single subject.

But much of Friday's argument turned to a far broader question: whether voters in a state can limit the terms of U.S. senators and representatives, whose qualifications for office are set by the U.S. Constitution.

"The U.S. Constitution has an exclusive list of age and residency and term of office," said Arthur England, a former Florida Supreme Court justice who argued against the proposed amendment. "The U.S. Supreme Court has said you can't add to that; you can't add other qualifications."

Justices Ben Overton and Rosemary Barkett appeared to agree that the court should issue a broad opinion on the constitutionality of the proposed amendment.

"The reason for this proceeding is for this court to consider constitutional issues ... before a lot of time and money is spent," Overton said.

Barkett: "Aren't we really talking about the right of the people to elect who they want to, even though that person has been in office?"

Across the nation, voters are looking at the idea of limiting terms of officeholders as a way of making the political process more responsive to citizens. Such laws have passed in Colorado, Oklahoma and California.

But no court in the country has ruled on whether state voters can limit the terms of U.S. senators and members of Congress. Colorado's law, which has not been challenged in court, would affect federal senators and representatives, but not until 2002.

Tuesday, voters in the state of Washington defeated a ballot

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT
Daily - - 75,000
NOV 09 1991

EIGHT/ Opponents see several conflicts

From 1A

initiative to limit state and congressional officeholders. But that initiative was retroactive. Florida's proposal, which would become effective in the year 2000, is not.

The Eight is Enough drive is backed by Winter Park businessman Phil Handy, who has put \$100,000 of his own money into the drive to get the term-limit proposal on the 1992 ballot. Handy says he has no political purpose other than to "make a difference."

"Let's get this term-limit amendment on the ballot and let the people decide the issue once and for all," Handy said after the court hearing.

One of his supporters is Cleta Mitchell, of the Oklahoma-based Term Limits Legal Institute. Arguing before the court, she said it would be improper for the court to rule on the constitutional question, because the amendment was not yet law.

"In order to do what opponents are asking the court to do, the court would engage in a legal and factual fiction," Mitchell argued.

The primary opposition to the Eight is Enough petition drive comes from a group called Americans for Ballot Freedom, which is backed by several former Florida

Supreme Court justices and former legislators.

Not only does the term-limiting drive conflict with the U.S. Constitution, the group says, but it also runs contrary to the state Constitution, because the issue affects three sets of officeholders, and thus involves three subjects, not one.

"This proposal is doubly faulted for violating what I think are three subjects ... and it cuts across constitutional lines," said England, who represents the Americans for Ballot Freedom.

No time limit is set for the court to release its ruling. But because further petition-gathering hinges on what the court decides, a ruling is expected soon.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

NOV 03 1991

Famous politicians fight limit on terms in office

OPPOSE from B-1

of Handy's proposed amendment, which would bar Florida members of Congress, the Cabinet and the Legislature from appearing on the ballot after serving eight years in one office.

Voters in California, Colorado and Oklahoma last year approved term limits on state officials. California's Supreme Court in October became the first to uphold the constitutionality of such an initiative but that proposition does not limit terms on federal officeholders.

Florida is unique because its Supreme Court decides constitutional questions before proposed amendments are submitted to the voters. A major dustup is expected between Handy's group, which doesn't want the court to delve too deeply into the issue, and opponents who want a definitive constitutional decision now.

"The justices could say, 'We've got an obligation to keep the people of Florida from going through a futile exercise,'" said Deputy Attorney General Pete Antonacci.

If the initiative passes constitutional muster, it will appear on the November 1992 ballot should Handy obtain the 364,000 necessary petition signatures by August. The group already has nearly 100,000.

The opposition is led by U.S. Rep. Larry Smith, D-Fla., and a group called Americans for Ballot Freedom led by people like former Supreme Court Chief Justice Raymond Ehrlich, former House speakers Hyatt Brown and Terrell Sessums, former legislator and Education Commissioner Ralph Turlington and longtime Agriculture Commissioner Doyle Conner, who retired last year after 30 years in office.

The motto of this organization is "Let The People Decide."

"I just think there's a built-in safeguard. If the people don't like somebody, they can vote him out," said Ehrlich. "I'm convinced people ought to have the right to vote for whom they want to."

The group is a wing of a Washington-based organization of the same name that is fighting the burgeoning term limitations movement nationally. Among those taking part nationally are

former U.S. House Speaker Carl Albert of Oklahoma, former Sens. William Proxmire of Wisconsin and Adlai Stevenson of Illinois and ex-Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young.

Many term limitation efforts are seen as attempts by the GOP to end Democratic dominance of state legislatures and Congress, but the national figures opposing limits include some prominent Republicans like former Defense Secretary Melvin Laird.

While Americans for Ballot Freedom has not yet begun raising money to combat the Florida

Top politicians say oh no to limits on terms

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALLAHASSEE — A prominent group of Florida political figures and former judges is lining up against a proposed constitutional amendment limiting terms in Congress, the Legislature and the state Cabinet.

The Democrat-dominated group includes the second-longest serving Cabinet officer in state history, three former Supreme Court justices, two ex-House speakers and a one-time president of the Senate. A Florida congressman has also joined the fray.

"It's quite a list," said Phil Handy, a Republican Winter Park businessman who chairs Citizens for Limited Political Terms and its "Eight is Enough" initiative. "It looks to me like the good old boys of Florida politics."

The state Supreme Court is scheduled Friday to hear oral arguments on the constitutionality

Please see **OPPOSE**, B-5

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If the people don't like somebody, they can vote him out. I'm convinced people ought to have the right to vote for whom they want to.

— Raymond Ehrlich,
former Florida Supreme Court
chief justice

initiative. Turlington said he expected the organization to mount a major voter education campaign if the initiative is certified by the Supreme Court.

"I'll always speak up when somebody asks," Turlington said.

With well-connected people like Brown and Conner involved, it's possible the group could raise millions of dollars to campaign against the proposal. Handy said he already has raised \$180,000 and is ready to match opponents dollar for dollar.

"Regardless of the amount of money they raise to fight this, I think the people of Florida feel strongly about term limits," Handy said.

The Citizens for Limited Political Terms want the Supreme Court to confine its comments to a pair of narrow procedural issues: whether the wording of the proposed amendment is clear and whether it deals with only one subject as required.

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DAILY - 59,000

NOV 10 1991

Term limit goes before top court

Opponents say it's too broad

By Lloyd Dunkelberger
Tallahassee Bureau

TALLAHASSEE — A proposed constitutional amendment to limit the terms of state legislators, Cabinet officials and members of Congress is invalid because it affects more than one area of government, the Florida Supreme Court was told Friday.

In the first court test for a Florida term-limit ban, former Supreme Court Justice Arthur England said the attempt violates the one-subject rule in the state Constitution.

"Single subject is going to be the place where you're going to have to strike this from the ballot," England said.

England represents "Americans for Ballot Freedom," a national organization opposed

to term limits. Its Florida members include former Cabinet members, retired Supreme Court justices and ex-legislative leaders.

The term-limit amendment is being promoted by Winter Park businessman Phil Handy, who calls his opponents a "who's who of Florida's good old boy network."

The attorney for Handy's group, Citizens for Limited Political Terms, told the state's highest court that the amendment does not violate the one-subject rule.

"We believe that this particular proposal clearly does have a logical and natural oneness of purpose and that is to limit the terms of the highest elected officials in Florida," Michael Rosen said.

Handy is heading a petition drive to put a term limit proposal on the November 1992 ballot.



Handy

Handy will explain the proposal at a luncheon speech in Ocala sponsored by the Central Florida Community College Tiger Bay Club. The event takes place at noon Monday in the Ocala Hilton and is open only to members of the club.

Democratic presidential candidate Paul Tsongas was originally scheduled to speak at the event, but canceled to attend a New Hampshire fund-raiser.

The proposal would effectively limit most state politicians to eight years in office, which is the constitutional limit for the governor.

Handy's group has gathered about 112,000 of the 364,000 voter signatures required to put the amendment on the ballot next year, he said.

The Supreme Court justices seemed particularly interested in whether Handy's proposed amendment was attempting to encompass too many topics.

"If the voters want to limit the terms of state officials, wouldn't they also have to ac-

cept limiting the terms of federal officials?" asked Chief Justice Leander Shaw.

Justice Gerald Kogan questioned whether it was proper to limit the terms of legislative and executive branch members in one amendment.

Rosen noted the court has previously approved a constitutional amendment that restricted lobbying by legislative and executive branch officials after they left office.

"The idea that a particular proposition will affect officeholders in different branches of government has already passed muster in this court," he said.

Cleta Mitchell, a former Oklahoma state legislator representing the Term Limits Legal Institute, noted that there is no constitutional ban or even a court case prohibiting term limits.

The justices will issue their ruling later.

A term-limit measure was defeated by Washington state voters on Tuesday.

NOV 09 1991

State court considering term limits

By Randolph Pendleton
Senior writer

TALLAHASSEE — Opponents of a proposed constitutional amendment limiting terms for legislators, the Cabinet and members of Congress urged the Florida Supreme Court yesterday to keep it off the ballot because it is too sweeping.

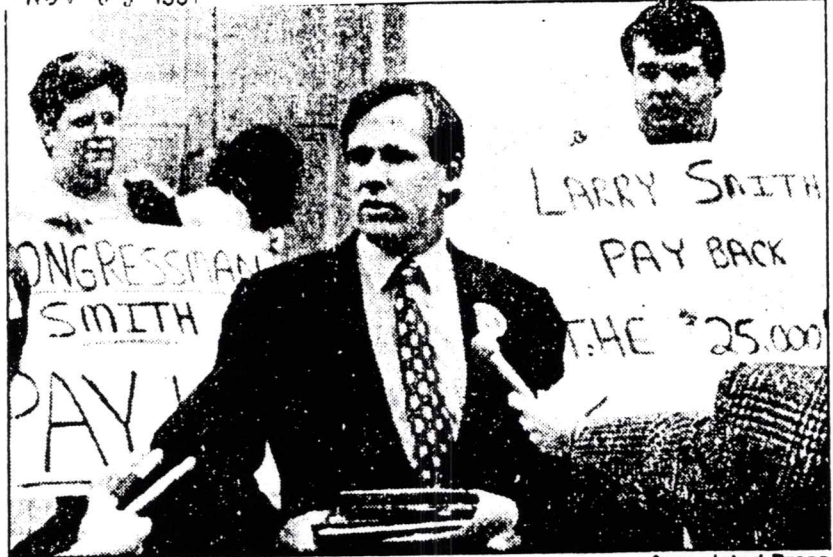
But the amendment's sponsors said it addresses a single subject and that Floridians should be allowed to vote on it next year. The court took the case under advisement after hearing oral arguments.

Citizens for Limited Political Terms has gathered more than 100,000 petition signatures, about a fifth of the number needed to put the issue on the ballot if it is cleared by the court.

It would limit state legislators and Cabinet members to eight years in office and U.S. senators to 12.

Attorney General Bob Butterworth issued an opinion earlier that said the proposal met the requirements to be approved for the ballot.

But Arthur England, a former Florida Supreme Court chief justice representing a group of prominent political figures opposing the



— Associated Press

Phil Handy, of Citizens for Limited Political Terms, talks with reporters at the state Supreme Court as demonstrators protest Rep. Larry Smith, D-Fla., using public money to fight the case.

amendment, told the justices that it violated the requirement that amendments proposed by petition be limited to a single subject.

While most of the discussion focused on the single-subject question, England also argued that the proposed amendment would violate the U.S. Constitution because it sets requirements for Congress.

Michael Rosen, lawyer for the amendment's sponsors, replied the constitution doesn't prohibit states from setting requirements for federal office and, in any event, the state Supreme Court has no author-

ity to decide federal constitutional issues in deciding if an amendment meets ballot requirements.

Phil Handy of Orlando, the chairman of Citizens for Limited Political Terms, complained after the hearing that two of the briefs filed against the amendment were paid for with taxpayers' dollars. One was written by the U.S. House of Representatives counsel at the request of Rep. Larry Smith, D-Fla., and another was filed by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

The third was by a group called Americans for Ballot Freedom.

Court questions supporters of term-limit amendment

By MARY ELLEN KLAS

Palm Beach Post Capital Bureau

TALLAHASSEE — Supreme Court justices rigorously questioned supporters of a constitutional amendment to limit terms for Florida legislators, Cabinet officials and congressmen during a hearing Friday on whether the initiative should be placed in the 1992 ballot.

Even if the Supreme Court decides the initiative and the ballot wording are legal, supporters of term limits still must get enough signatures to present the issue to voters.

Justices asked proponents of the petition drive why voters should be asked to decide on limiting terms for three different offices, including two branches of government. Opponents argued that the court should reject the ballot language because it affects two branches of government and prevents voters from judging each separately.

"You're putting them all together, but voters will look at that and really not have a choice if they have different ideas about the different components of the ballot," Justice Gerald Kogan said. "... That puts the voters in a dilemma."

An attorney for the term limits effort, Michael Rosen of Tallahassee, responded that people may oppose elements of the proposal but that should not be argument enough to keep the issue off the ballot.

He said the court has previously approved ballot questions that affect more than one branch of government as long as they had a "oneness of purpose."

The initiative would prevent members of the Florida Legislature, the six independently elected Cabinet members and Florida members of Congress from seeking re-election after serving two terms. For U.S. senators that would mean 12 years, while it would

limit the other offices to the eight-year limit now set for the governor and lieutenant governor.

Attorneys for a group called Americans for Ballot Freedom asked the justices to decide whether term limits would violate the U.S. Constitution.

"This case is changing the way our Legislature, our executive branch and our federal legislature are going to be operating," said Miami lawyer Arthur England, a former chief justice of the court.

"This goes to the heart of how government operates."

But Cleta Mitchell, an attorney of the Oklahoma-based Term Limits Legal Institute, said the court should not decide the constitutional questions before voters decided the issue.

"The proper way to raise it is after the public has had an opportunity to decide these issues on their own," said Mitchell, a former state representative from Oklahoma.

Florida law requires the Supreme Court to approve ballot language before it goes on state ballots because the state Constitution requires that the questions deal with a single subject.

Voters in California, Colorado and Oklahoma last year approved term limits on state officials, but only one — Colorado — included congressional terms.

Similar initiatives are pending in other states but none has had to be pre-approved by a court.

California's Supreme Court recently upheld a term limit proposal that affected only state officials and Washington state voters this week rejected a plan to impose retroactive term limits on its congressmen.

Winter Park businessman Phil Handy is spearheading the "Eight is Enough" petition drive.



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*Remarks from Phil Handy, Chairman
December 19, 1991*

Today is the people's day in Tallahassee and throughout Florida. That's because today the Florida Supreme Court upheld the people's right to have their say on the issue of term limits.

Today the people won. Career politicians lost. Deep-pocketed special interests lost. And the ever-entrenched "good ole boy" network that wants to keep term limits off the ballot lost.

Ordinary people who care about our future triumphed over the unresponsive ruling elite who have for too long held a death grip on the reigns of political power. Today Mary Senkevech, a waste-treatment plant operator in Orlando, won and Arthur England lost. Jeff Furst, a realtor from Fort Pierce, won and Wade Hopping lost. Colonel Larry Howell, a Bonifay farmer, won and Doyle Connor lost. Olga Calhoun, a retiree from Ocala, won and J. Hyatt Brown lost. Frank Pena, a student from Miami won and Congressman Larry Smith lost.

It's time for our opponents to start listening to the will of the people. The people of Florida -- young and old -- male and female -- rich and poor -- black and white -- liberal and conservative -- Democrat and Republican -- want term limits. And an elite cadre of political insiders isn't going to keep the people from having their say.

The Florida Supreme Court did what was right. They protected the people's right to petition government, and by doing so have cleared the way for our initiative drive to gather the rest of the signatures needed to place our term limit amendment on the 1992 ballot.

We've cleared another major hurdle on our way to the ballot box, where the people of Florida will decide the issue of term limits, but there is still much work to be done.

Today we call on voters who have not yet signed our petition to do so. We thank our 5,000 volunteers and over 1,000 contributors from all over Florida who have made it possible for our campaign to reach this milestone, and ask for their continued help.

Together, we are making a difference!

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FLORIDA TODAY
DAILY - 114,000
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DEC 2 6 1991

Court upholds drive for term limits

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Supreme Court cleared the way Thursday for a petition drive to limit members of Congress, the Cabinet and the Legislature to eight years in office.

The Court said a proposed constitutional amendment meets requirements to go on the November 1992 ballot if petitioners obtain the required 364,000 signatures on petitions by August.

They've obtained more than 135,000 since April, said Phil Handy, a Republican Winter Park businessman who chairs Citizens for Lim-

ited Political Terms and heads the "Eight is Enough" initiative.

With the court ruling, Handy told a news conference, "Deep-pocketed special interests lost, and the ever-entrenched 'good old boy' network that wants to keep term limits off the ballot lost."

The petitioners say politicians in office too long can become preoccupied with re-election and beholden to special interests.

The president as well as the governor and lieutenant governor already are limited to two terms.

The court didn't rule on the validity of term limits, only issued

an advisory opinion that the proposed amendment meets requirements that it deal with a single subject and the proposed ballot language is clear.

"So it will go on the ballot," said a foe, nine-term U.S. Rep. Larry Smith, D-Hollywood.

Opposition has been led by Smith and Americans for Ballot Freedom, a branch of a Washington group fighting term limits nationally.

Participants include former U.S. House Speaker Carl Albert of Oklahoma, former Sens. William Proxmire of Wisconsin and Adlai Stevenson of Illinois, and former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young.

Voters in California, Colorado and Oklahoma approved term limits for state officials last year.

Florida Attorney General Bob Butterworth had asked the state Supreme Court to rule on the contention by amendment foes that Florida's constitution can't limit congressional terms because they are set by the U.S. Constitution.

Smith said there would be a strong campaign against the amendment and predicted a federal court challenge if it is adopted.

"I personally feel that the people have the right to limit any elective officeholder's term. In the House, where we serve two years, they can do that rather easily," Smith said.

STUART NEWS
DAILY - 39.000

DEC 20 1981

Term-limit amendment OK for ballot

Required signatures last hurdle

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Supreme Court cleared the way Thursday for a petition drive to limit members of Congress, the Cabinet and the Legislature to eight years in office.

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They've obtained more than 135,000 since April, said Phil Handy, a Republican Winter Park businessman who chairs Citizens for Limited Political Terms and heads the group's "Eight is Enough" initiative.

With the court ruling, Handy told a news conference, "Deep-pocketed special interests lost, and the ever-entrenched 'good ole boy' network that wants to keep term limits off the ballot lost."

The petitioners say politicians in office too long can become preoccupied with re-election and beholden to special interests. The president as well as Florida's governor and lieutenant governor are already limited to two terms, they argue.

The court didn't rule on the validity of term limits, only issued an advisory opinion that the proposed amendment meets requirements that it deal with a single subject and the proposed ballot language is clear.

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Voters in California, Colorado and Oklahoma approved term limits for state officials last year. California's Supreme Court upheld that state's amendment, but it doesn't limit federal officials' terms.

Florida Attorney General Bob Butterworth had asked the state Supreme Court to rule on the contention by amendment foes that Florida's constitution can't limit congressional terms because they are set by the U.S. Constitution.

"Most people want all career politicians to have term limits," Handy argued.

"The court said that is not for them to decide," Assistant Attorney General Pete Antonacci said. He predicted the amendment would be challenged if adopted and the question would be decided in federal court.

Smith said there would be a strong campaign against the amendment and also predicted a federal court challenge if it is adopted.

"I personally feel that the people have the right to limit any elective officeholder's term. In the House, where we serve two years, they can do that rather easily," Smith said.

Voters can decide whether 8 is enough, state Supreme Court says

By John C. Van Gieson

SENTINEL TALLAHASSEE BUREAU

TALLAHASSEE — A proposal that would limit terms of most state officials to eight years is legal and should be decided by voters next year, the Florida Supreme Court said Thursday.

The court ruled in a 5-2 decision that 8 is Enough, as Winter Park financier Phil Handy calls his proposal, meets all the requirements for a citizens initiative.

"Today the people won," Handy said. "Career politicians lost. Deep-pocketed special interests lost. And the ever-entrenched 'good ole boy' network that wants to keep term limits off the ballot lost."

Handy has collected about 135,000 signatures to put his proposal on the Nov. 3, 1992 ballot. He must collect 363,886 verified signatures by Aug. 14.

The court said in an opinion written by Justice Stephen Grimes that Handy's proposal complied with a Florida Constitution provision limiting proposed amendments to a single subject.

"The sole subject of the proposed amendment is limiting the number of consecutive terms that certain elected public officers may serve," the court said. "Although the proposed amendment affects officeholders in three different branches of government, that fact alone is not sufficient to invalidate the proposed amendment."

Handy's proposal would limit Cabinet members, state and U.S. representatives to eight years in office, state senators to eight or 10 years and U.S. senators to 12 years. The governor is already limited to two, four-year terms.

Opponents argued that the proposal violated the U.S. Constitution by imposing limits on congressional terms, but the court declined to rule on that issue.

Justice Ben Overton, who wrote one of two dissenting opinions, said the court should have saved everyone a lot of time and money by ruling on the federal issue.

"To allow the people to vote and then, if adopted, hold the provision unconstitutional on its face perpetuates a fraud on the voting public," he said.

Term-limits opponents said they were disappoint-

ed in the ruling but would continue their fight to defeat the proposal at the polls.

House Speaker-designate Bo Johnson, D-Milton, is sponsoring a proposed constitutional amendment that would limit the terms of legislators and state officials to 12 years. It would not affect members of

Congress.

If the Legislature passes Johnson's proposal, it could end up on the ballot alongside Handy's eight-year limit. But Johnson's proposal contains a provision that it would take priority over any other proposal approved by voters.

Term limits can go on ballot, court says

By ELLEN MCGARRAHAN
Herald Capital Bureau

TALLAHASSEE — A movement to limit the terms of state and federal officeholders in Florida won permission Thursday from the state Supreme Court to place the proposal on the ballot next year, if organizers can gain enough signatures.

The ruling, an important first step, was hailed as a victory by the initiative's organizers. "We're delighted by the judgment," said Phil Handy, chairman of Citizens for Limited Political Terms.

But the ruling does not mean that the term limits, if approved by voters, will become law.

In deciding whether to allow the term limit question on the ballot, the majority of the court focused on the narrow issue of whether the initiative meets state ballot language requirements — rather than on its constitutional validity.

Open for challenge

That means the measure, if it passes, is wide open for a constitutional challenge. For that reason, opponents said the ruling is far from the end of the battle.

"We haven't heard the end of this," said Arthur England, who represented the term limit's opponents in oral arguments before the Supreme Court last month. "It may or may not be part of the Constitution. All they're saying is that the

people have the right to vote on it at this stage."

The idea of limiting the number of years that people can hold office has gained momentum across the nation in recent years. Born of disgust with government, ideological disagreements with officeholders and a fear that government is no longer by and for the people, term limits are proposed for the ballots of 14 states next year. Florida is one of them.

And here, as in other states where the issue has been discussed, the arguments pit two very different ideas of how democracy works against each other.

Supporters of the limits say the problem with American politics is that officeholders have lost touch with the people they represent. Term limits, they argue, will return government to the citizens by making career politicians obsolete.

Foes cite drawbacks

Opponents say the opposite will occur. Take experienced officeholders out of the picture, they argue, and government will be run by staff and lobbyists — not the citizenry.

What the Citizens for Limited Political Terms propose is this: an amendment to the state Constitution barring any member of the Legislature, Cabinet or those Florida sends to the U.S. House and Senate from appearing on the ballot for reelection after serving eight consecutive years in office.

With the court ruling, the matter is in the hands of the state's registered voters — 500,000 of whom must sign petitions if the question is to appear on the ballot; a majority of whom must approve it if it does.

To get on a ballot, proposed amendments to the state Constitution must also meet two requirements: they may address no more than one subject, and the ballot summary that voters will read before casting their ballot must be clear.

Last month, Attorney General

Bob Butterworth referred the proposed term limit ballot question to the Supreme Court for an opinion on whether it met the two requirements. The court ruled Thursday that it did.

"We find that the proposed amendment meets the single-subject requirement," Justice Stephen Grimes wrote for the majority. And, he wrote, "the language of the summary and the ballot title are clear and unambiguous."

Constitutionality unresolved

The court didn't rule on whether the term limits proposed by Citizens for Limited Political Terms are constitutional. That means that even if the limits get on the ballot and are approved by voters, they may be found unconstitutional and be barred from taking effect.

And indeed, the constitutionality of the proposal provoked controversy on the high court itself, as two of seven justices strongly urged that the measure be declared constitutionally impermissible.

At issue in the high court's dispute: the part of the term limit initiative that would slap limits on the U.S. Senate and House.

In a strongly worded dissent, Justices Ben Overton and Gerald Kogan called the court's decision to delay deciding the constitutionality of the proposed amendment "a fraud on the voting public."

They noted that the nation's high court has previously ruled that "this type of limitation on a candidate for the U.S. Senate or the House of Representatives is unconstitutional."

Nevertheless, Handy and his coalition say they'll win a constitutional challenge if it comes. "Ultimately, we will see a constitutional battle on this issue. But I think we'll win."

England, however, speaking as an opponent of the term limits, said the issue remains up in the air: "This ball game is not over."



Handy

High court clears way for term-limit petition drive

By MARY ELLEN KLAS
Palm Beach Post Capital Bureau

TALLAHASSEE — Florida voters moved a step closer to deciding whether to limit the terms of state and federal lawmakers when the Florida Supreme Court cleared the way Thursday for the issue to be placed on the November ballot if a petition drive succeeds.

The court ruled that a proposal to limit members of Congress, the Cabinet and the Legislature to eight years in office meets the constitutional requirement that a ballot initiative address a single issue.

But in the 5-2 decision, the court left open the possibility that the amendment could be struck down as unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court if voters approve it. The Florida justices did not address whether states can apply blanket term limits to federal and state officeholders, and proponents and opponents of the measure expect a court fight.

STATE/REGIONAL NEWS

"I think ultimately we will see a constitutional battle on this issue but I think we will win," said Phil Handy, a Republican businessman from Winter Park who heads the "Eight is Enough" initiative and chairs Citizens for Limited Political Terms.

The group has collected more than 135,000 signatures since April, including 5,000 in Palm Beach County. The group needs 364,000 signatures from registered voters by August to win a spot on the November ballot.

A legislative effort, headed by Rep. Bolley "Bo" Johnson, D-Milton, has also been started to put a constitutional amendment on the November ballot to limit state legislators' terms to 12 years. If the Legislature approved it, the 12-year limit would be

written to take precedence over the eight-year limit, Johnson said.

"It seemed like there's really no convincing people that this issue ought not be on the ballot," said Johnson.

Opponents of the "Eight is Enough" proposal, mostly state politicians, argued that the court should reject it because its sweeping application to officeholders in different branches of government violates the Florida Constitution's rule that amendments address only a single subject.

Writing for the majority, Justice Stephen Grimes rejected that argument and cited Florida's ethics amendment as applying financial disclosure requirements to all elected constitutional officers.

"The sole subject of the proposed amendment is limiting the number of consecutive terms that certain elected public officers may serve," Grimes wrote.

But in his dissent, Justice Ben Overton

chastised the court for failing to address the constitutionality of Floridians limiting federal elections. The U.S. Supreme Court has prohibited other states from limiting federal terms, he said.

"To allow people to vote and then, if adopted, hold the provision unconstitutional on its face perpetuates a fraud on the voting public," Overton wrote.

Arthur J. England, a former Supreme Court justice who represented the opponents to term limits before the court, predicted that Thursday's ruling will leave the court with a more difficult question to answer.

"If the (U.S.) Supreme Court rules that the state can't limit federal officeholders, the Florida Supreme Court is going to have to strike the entire results of the election," England said. "There is no possible way to know what voters would have voted for if they had a choice of just limiting the terms of the state officers."

Term limit challenge fails

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Supreme Court said Thursday a proposal to limit terms for members of Congress and state officials could go on the state's ballot in November if organizers get enough signatures.

State Attorney General Bob Butterworth had asked the high court to rule on opponents' contentions that the state Constitution can't limit congressional terms because they are set by the U.S. Constitution.

Organizers need 364,000 signatures by August to put the question on the November 1992 ballot. They've obtained more than 135,000 since April, said Phil Handy, a businessman heading the petition drive.

With the court ruling, Handy told a news conference, "Deep-pocketed special interests lost, and the ever-entrenched 'good ole boy' network that wants to keep term limits off the ballot lost."

The proposal would bar members of Congress, elected state Cabinet officials and state legislators from the ballot once they had served eight years or more in office. It would apply to U.S. senators after they had served two six-year terms.

The court didn't rule on the validity of term limits, only issued an advisory opinion that the proposed amendment meets requirements that it deal with a single subject and the proposed ballot language is clear.

Assistant Attorney General Pete Antonacci predicted the amendment would be challenged if adopted and the question would be decided in federal court.

Voters in California, Colorado and Oklahoma approved term limits for state officials last year. California's Supreme Court upheld that state's amendment, but it doesn't limit federal officials' terms.

Tallahassee Democrat/Fri., Dec. 20, 1991

LOCAL/STATE

Court OKs term-limit petition

Now, if supporters gather enough signatures to put the proposal on the ballot, voters could decide whether to put a cap on how long legislators can serve.

By Bill Cotterell
Democrat Capitol bureau

The Eight Is Enough petition campaign won legal approval from the Florida Supreme Court on Thursday, but the justices declined to decide whether the

state can set longevity limits on members of Congress.

The justices didn't specifically approve the initiative, which could set a limit on how many consecutive terms a legislator could serve.

The 5-2 ruling, written by Justice Stephen Grimes, held only that the ballot initiative dealt with a single subject, and that language in the petition was sufficient to let voters know what they are signing.

The much thornier — and potentially disqualifying — question of whether states can put limits on federal officers is expected to be raised in state and federal

courts if the amendment gets on the ballot.

Phil Handy, a Winter Park businessman who heads the Floridians for Limited Political Terms, said the state court's ruling will be a big boost.

Handy said he has 140,000 voter signatures and is confident of certifying the required 363,889 signatures before the Aug. 4, 1992, deadline.

Opponents of term limitations argued unsuccessfully that Handy's petition language was insufficient because it did not advise voters that there are currently no limits on seniority — except the two-term cap on governors.

The court majority said, however, that since there is no current constitutional language limiting terms of Cabinet officers, legislators and members of Congress, it was not necessary for the petition to warn voters that they might be taking away their own ability to re-elect those officers as long as they wish.

"In effect, this proposed amendment writes on a clean slate," wrote Grimes.

Justices Gerald Kogan and Ben Overton dissented, saying the court should have ruled on the legality of applying a provision in the Florida Constitution to

Please see EIGHT, 4C

EIGHT/

An amendment is
also proposed
From 1C

federal officeholders.

Overton wrote that voters deserve to know, when they sign the petition or vote for an amendment on the ballot, whether it might be knocked out later as being too broad.

In the majority opinion, Grimes noted that in saying the petition passed constitutional muster, "this opinion should not be construed as favoring or opposing the passage of this proposed amendment."

Handy called the ruling "a victory for the people" over what he termed "career politicians" with a personal stake in staying in office.

He also estimated that the drive will go over the top March 10, when his campaign will have volunteers at polling places for the presidential primary, hoping for at least 100,000 new names.

A separate constitutional amendment, setting a 12-year limit only for state officers, has been introduced in the Legislature by Rep. Bo Johnson, D-Milton.

Friday, December 20, 1991

Court OKs vote limiting political terms

By BILL HALLDIN
Tribune Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE — The state Supreme Court cleared the way Thursday for Floridians to vote to set an eight-year limit on the terms of the state's elected officials and congressmen.

But a group of influential lawmakers is presenting an alternative — a 12-year limit that could prevail over the eight-year limit if both pass in November.

■ **SENATE SHUFFLE**
Senate president rewards loyal Democrats with committee chairs. **Page 8**

The 5-2 court decision OK'd the language of the proposed constitutional amendment and said the issue doesn't violate the state's rules on citizens' initiatives.

The decision boosts the petition drive led by Orlando businessman Phil Handy, a Republican activist, and likely will set up a November battle between his group and those who say voters already can limit terms — by throwing politicians out of office.

"I was afraid the court would make a political agenda," Handy said during a speech in Lakeland. "I'm glad they did what was right. I asked our lawyers if there were any caveats or ringers in there, but they said no."



Associated Press photograph
Phil Handy's "Eight is Enough" wants to limit political terms to eight years.

All that is needed now is for the group, called "Eight is Enough," to collect about 364,000 signatures of registered voters. The group expects it will need about 500,000 to get enough verified signatures. So far, 135,000 people have signed petitions.

But state Rep. Bo Johnson, a Panhandle Democrat, and Rep.

See **LAWMAKERS**, Page 4

Lawmakers want to expand proposed term limit to 12 years

■ From Page 1

Jim Lombard, R-Osprey, are leading a separate effort to get the Florida Legislature to put a term-limit question on the November ballot that would limit state officeholders to 12 years.

Johnson said Thursday that proposal includes a provision that it would prevail if both proposed amendments pass. Johnson said he did that to eliminate any confusion over the vote and because he thinks 12 years allows for lawmakers to become more knowledgeable without staying in office too long.

"I think the public is demanding that the issue be put before them," Johnson said. The Florida Legislature can put proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot without collecting hundreds of thousands of signatures. All that is required is a three-fifths vote of the House and Senate.

Florida is one of about 20 states considering the term limits idea. Only three — Oklahoma, California and Colorado — have such limits. Washington state rejected them in a November election.

Florida opponents include Gov. Lawton Chiles, House Speaker T.K. Wetherell, former Supreme Court Justices Raymond Ehrlich and Arthur England and former Agriculture Commissioner Doyle Connor, who served for 30 years.

England, a Miami attorney who represented the term-limits opponents before the Supreme Court, said he thinks the proposed constitutional amendment violates the U.S. Constitution by limiting the terms of congressmen, who are federal officeholders.

But the court majority said that issue should be

decided only if it is challenged after the election. Justice Ben Overton disagreed, saying the court should have decided that issue to save advocates and opponents the time and energy of what could be a futile fight.

"To allow the people to vote and then, if adopted, hold the provision unconstitutional on its face perpetuates a fraud on the voting public," Overton wrote in a dissenting opinion that Justice Gerald Kogan concurred with.

The proposed wording of the amendment allows it to stand even if a part is ruled unconstitutional, but Overton questioned whether the court had the authority to cut out provisions of the amendment after the vote.

But Handy said state legislators, Cabinet members and the lieutenant governor still could be limited in their terms, even if the congressional part were invalidated because the amendment allows for that. Florida's governor already is constitutionally limited to two, four-year terms.

The plan being advocated by Johnson and other lawmakers doesn't include congressional offices. Johnson said he questions the constitutionality of including Congress and said it would only make sense if every state did the same thing.

Otherwise, Florida would be sending "rookies" into Congress when other states sent veteran lawmakers who tend to gain clout with their longevity, Johnson said.



Johnson

Staff writer Doug Nurse contributed to this report.



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*Remarks of Phil Handy, Chairman
March 18, 1992*

Over 332,000 Florida voters have put career politicians on notice -- they've said "Eight is Enough!", and put us two-thirds of the way towards our 500,000 petition goal.

Last Tuesday, March 10, was a "Super Tuesday" for Florida's Eight is Enough term limit campaign. Term Limits won the presidential primary election, when Eight is Enough volunteers collected signatures at more than 600 polling places throughout Florida. Our goal was to collect 100,000 signatures that day.

We exceeded this goal. 141,271 Florida voters signed Eight is Enough petitions that day. That's twice the number of people than you can put into Joe Robbie Stadium.

Across Florida, people were eager to sign our petitions on Super Tuesday, no matter which party they belonged to, and no matter which candidate they came to vote for.

If you want to hear why 80% of Florida voters support term limits, do what our volunteers are doing. Take a pad of petitions to any street corner, any Rotary Club, any Church picnic, any VFW hall -- take them anywhere in Florida except the Capitol Building -- and listen to what the people of Florida are saying.

They're registering a complaint against politics as usual. They're tired of career politicians who are more concerned with self service than public service. They want government returned to the people.

So today we celebrate the largest petitioning day in the history of our campaign. But we're not resting on our laurels. We still have a lot of signatures to collect, and a serious campaign to wage.

Our success is important not only to Florida, but to America. This is the most important term limit campaign in America, and so we expect our opponents to come out in force to try and defeat us. But with the help of our growing army of 6700 volunteers and 1500 contributors, we're confident that we'll win in November.

Anyone who reads newspapers, watches television or listens to the radio is constantly reminded of the need to change the political culture of Florida and America.

Our political system has been ravaged by incumbent arrogance.

Take the Congressional check-kiting scandal for example, and how U.S. House members responded to the people's call for disclosure of those who wrote bad checks. While over 350 current and past House members kited checks, the House Ethics Committee wanted to release only 24 names to the public. The public saw this for what it was -- more of a cover-up than a disclosure.

The 24 worst check-kitters in Congress wrote an average of almost \$300,000 in bad checks EACH over a three and a half year period. Only one of them has been in Congress for eight years or less.

Who else could have done this without going to jail or paying taxes on these interest-free loans? Nobody. This behavior is outrageous, and symbolic of the need to limit terms.

Congress routinely exempts itself from laws that American businesses must live under. Now Congressmen become a privileged elite, living a life totally unlike that of any other American. This is a far cry from what our founders hoped "the People's House" would be.

And the need for term limits is as evident in Tallahassee as it is in Washington.

To have our amendment on the ballot, we must meet a legal deadline to obtain our signatures -- and we will meet it. The legislature also has a legal deadline for their work -- they didn't meet it. And guess who has to pay. The Florida taxpayer. The upcoming special session will cost the taxpayers \$40,000 per day.

While school funding is being slashed, at least one legislator is using our tax dollars to fly first-class to and from Tallahassee. And in the midst of this recession, they're talking about raising our taxes.

If you want another example of outrageous behavior in Tallahassee, just look at the politics of reapportionment. The philosophy of members from both parties is not how to create the best and most logical districts to represent the people of Florida, but how to win a cynical game of political self-preservation.

It's time for lawmakers to have an opportunity to live under the laws that they've made. It's time to put an end to the almost permanent ruling class that congress and the legislature have become. It's time to tell entrenched incumbents that "Eight is Enough!"

The people of Florida have had enough. We're saying "Eight is Enough!" louder than ever. We thank the volunteers who have made our successes to date possible, and call on others to sign a petition, collect signatures at local events, and contribute to our campaign.

Because together, we are making a difference!

Petition poised on goal line

□ A drive to let Florida voters decide on term limits for elected officials is almost complete.

By Mike Oliver

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

Phil Handy stood at the 35-yard line Wednesday in Orlando's Citrus Bowl and waved toward the 70,000 empty seats.

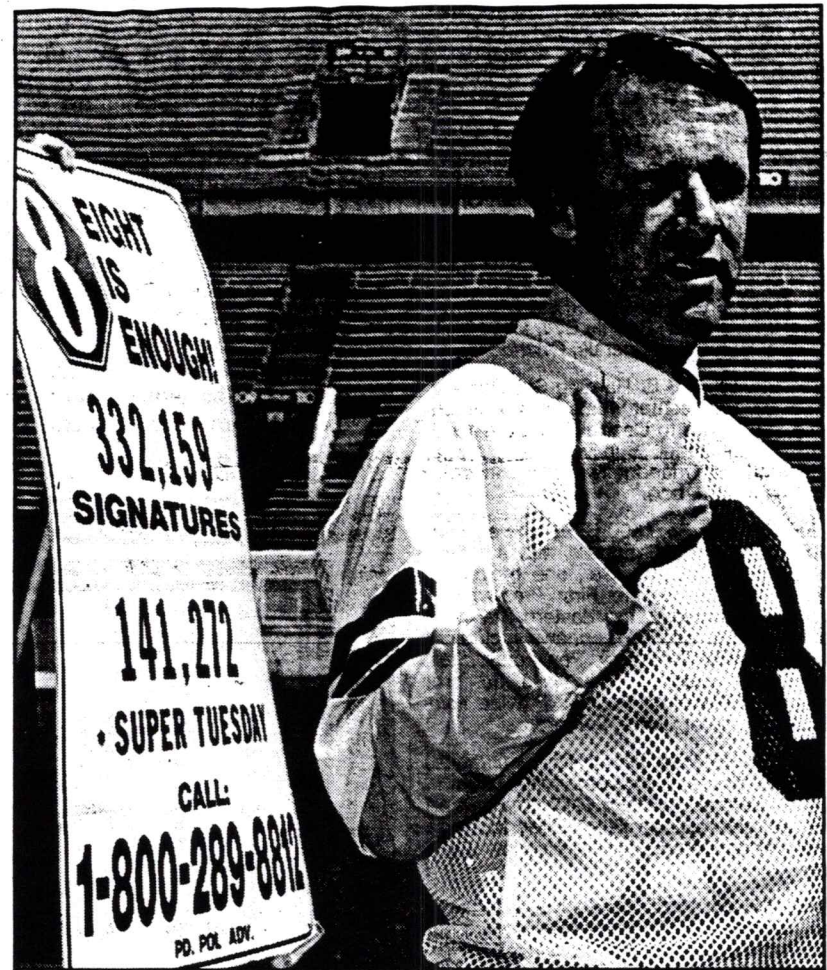
"On Super Tuesday we signed up two times as many people that would fill this stadium," Handy said of his group's push toward term limits for elected officials.

Some may call Handy's not-so-subtle imagery overkill, but for the the Eight is Enough chairman — sporting a No. 8 football jersey — the news is big. The initiative to limit elected officials to eight years in office is well on its way to becoming a decision for Florida's six million voters this fall.

"We're two-thirds of the way there," the Winter Park businessman told a handful of supporters, volunteers and reporters. "We're on the 35-yard line on the way to the goal line."

Handy flew all over the state Wednesday to crow about how the group picked up 141,271 signatures using volunteers and paid workers at 600 polling places in 31 counties.

The citizens group now has 332,159 signatures on its way to a goal of 500,000. By law, the group needs 365,000 registered voters to get it on the November ballot. The higher aim is needed because gen-



ANGELA PETERSON/SENTINEL

The No. 8 on Handy's jersey signifies the maximum number of years he and others think elected officials should stay in office.

erally about 20 to 25 percent of the signatures can't be used or verified, Handy said.

"When we first started we were like the struggling candidate looking for name ID," said executive director John Sowinski, one of five paid staffers for the group. "Now they see us at a booth somewhere and tell us they've been looking for us."

The group has raised \$300,000 to promote its efforts, and recent scandals such as the U.S. House check-kiting brouhaha have helped fan anti-incumbent sentiment.

"People not only want to sign

up, they want to tell us how angry they are," Handy said.

The group has battled charges that it is a partisan Republican plot and that it would limit voter choices. Critics have pointed to Handy's longtime GOP connections.

Ben Everidge, an Orlando Democrat running for state Senate, attended Handy's press conference Wednesday and said he believes term limitations would offer more choices, not less, "by doing away with the power of incumbency."

"I think it would bring out more candidates," he said.

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ST. PETERSBURG TIMES
DAILY - 500,000
MAR 19 1992

Super Tuesday voters push term limits toward ballot

■ Voters who signed petitions at the polls left the "Eight is Enough" campaign only about 28,000 signatures short of its goal.

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Some Floridians who turned out for Super Tuesday primaries on March 10 didn't want their chosen candidates staying in office too long.

"Eight is Enough" petitions circulated at polling places pushed the term-limit drive 141,271 signatures closer to getting its proposal on the November ballot, financier Phil Handy of Winter Park said Wednesday.

In addition to the Super Tuesday crowds, the campaign is getting a boost from the U.S. House check-kiting scandal, said Handy, chairman of the effort.

"Our political system has been ravaged by the arrogance of incumbency," he said. "These people live in kind of an elite, non-common kind of way."

Another assist comes from the Florida Legislature's failure to pass its own proposed constitutional amendment that would have called for a 12-year term limit.

That means the "Eight is Enough" two-term proposal, if successful, will be the only one on the ballot, Handy said.

He held several news conferences, including one in Tallahassee and one on the 35-yard line at the Citrus Bowl in Orlando, intended to illustrate the petition cam-

paign's progress toward its goal.

To put the proposal on the ballot, county election supervisors must verify by July 13 that the campaign has obtained the signatures of 360,000 registered voters.

The volunteer drive has obtained more than 332,000 signatures so far, including 141,271 gathered at more than 600 polling places on Super Tuesday, Handy said.

Florida is one of 14 states where people are trying to put term limits on the November ballot, he said.

Handy said he has raised more than \$289,000 for the "Eight is Enough" campaign, including a \$106,000 personal loan.



Financier Phil Handy is chairman of the drive for term limits.

Eight Is Enough says it's near goal

By John F. Berry

Staff writer

TALLAHASSEE — A grass-roots move to limit the terms of Florida's state legislators and members of Congress is moving closer to the ballot box.

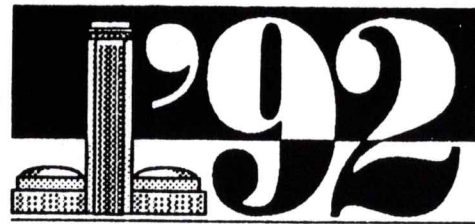
Eight Is Enough, an Orlando group petitioning for term limits, has 332,000 of the 364,000 signatures needed to place the question on the November ballot, Chairman Phil Handy said yesterday.

If voters approve the referendum, state legislators, Cabinet members and the lieutenant governor, as well as Florida's congressmen, would serve no more than eight years in the same office. U.S. senators would serve no more than two six-year terms.

The anti-incumbent mood among voters, the continuing reapportionment and budget battles in the Legislature and the check-bouncing problems of U.S. House members have prompted voters to sign the petitions, Handy said.

"Both in Tallahassee and Washington,

LEGISLATURE



they [politicians] have been very accommodating about providing us with ammunition," Handy said at a news conference. "We haven't had to make up one piece of this stuff."

Although Eight Is Enough has until August to gather 364,000 signatures, Handy said he expects to reach that figure by mid-May and eventually gather 500,000 signatures.

(See EIGHT IS ENOUGH, Page B-3)

FLORIDA TIMES UNION
DAILY - - 250,000
JACKSONVILLE
MAR 19 1992

Eight Is Enough reports it's near signature goal

(From Page B-1)

natures.

Handy said Eight Is Enough had a super Tuesday on March 10, when 1,000 volunteers collected more than 141,000 signatures from registered voters.

About 22,000 of those signatures were from Duval County, which led the state.

Bill Scheu, Eight Is Enough coordinator for Duval County, said his group led the state because of the

experience that volunteers gained from a 1990 initiative that limits Jacksonville City Council members to eight years in office.

In addition to the signatures, Eight Is Enough has collected more than \$297,000 in contributions from throughout the United States.

As of Dec. 31, the latest reporting period, a Denver-based group called "Americans Back in Charge" had given \$40,000 to Eight Is Enough. The Denver group contributes money and advice to term-limiting cam-

paigns throughout the country.

Assistant U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Johnathan Kislak and Maritime Commissioner Donald Quartel Jr. each gave \$250.

Wayne Huizenga, head of Blockbusters Video, gave \$5,000 in April.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers contributed \$1,000 to the campaign.

Eleven people from Jacksonville have contributed at least \$100 to Eight Is Enough. They include business consultant William Inman III,

whose \$500 was the most from the area; developer Martin Stein Jr., \$100; McGehee Realty, \$100; dairy farmer and landowner Bryant Skinner, \$100; and C. Brightman Skinner, \$200.

Rep. Jim King, R-Jacksonville, who supported term limits when the state House approved a bill limiting state legislators, Cabinet members and the lieutenant governor to 12 years in office, gave \$25 to the campaign.

STUART NEWS
DAILY - 30 000

MAR 19 1992

Super Tuesday boosts drive for term limits

141,000 signatures collected at polls

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Some Floridians who turned out for Super Tuesday primaries on March 10 didn't want their chosen candidates staying in office too long.

"Eight is Enough" petitions circulated at polling places pushed the term-limit drive 141,271 signatures closer to getting its proposal on the November ballot, financier Phil Handy of Winter Park said Wednesday.

In addition to the Super Tuesday crowds, the campaign is getting a boost from the U.S. House check-kiting scandal, said Handy, chairman of the effort.

"Our political system has been ravaged by the arrogance of incumbency," he said. "These people live in kind of an elite, non-common kind of way."

Another assist comes from the Legislature's failure to pass its own proposed constitutional amendment that would have called for a 12-year term limit.

That means the "Eight is

Enough" two-term proposal, if successful, will be the only one on the ballot, Handy said.

He held several news conferences, including one in Tallahassee and one on the 35-yard line at the Citrus Bowl in Orlando, intended to illustrate the petition campaign's progress toward its goal.

To put the proposal on the ballot, county election superintendents must verify by July 13 that the campaign has obtained the signatures of 360,000 registered voters.

The volunteer drive has obtained more than 332,000 signatures, including the 141,271 gathered at more than 600 polling places on Super Tuesday, Handy said.

Florida is one of 14 states in which voters are trying to put term limits on the November ballot, he said.

Handy said he's raised more than \$289,000 for the "Eight is Enough" campaign, including a \$106,000 personal loan.

MAR 20 1992

**ROBERT L. STEINBACK**

Are term limits a good way to fix politics?

The opposite axiom to "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" should be, "If it is broke, beware of opportunists hawking repair services."

There's a drive gaining nationwide momentum to limit the number of terms elected officials can serve. In Florida, the "Eight is Enough" campaign has raised over 330,000 petition signatures to date, and may soon reach the half-million needed to put the initiative on the fall ballot.

The proposed state constitutional amendment would bar the name of any state legislator, cabinet member or Florida member of Congress from appearing on the next election ballot if he or she has served eight consecutive years in office. An incumbent could run as a write-in candidate, or in a future election.

Proponents, like Eight is Enough chairman Phil Handy, claim the initiative will breathe life into a political system gone stale thanks to the near-impossibility of dislodging incumbents.

"If we open up the system and do away with the 98 percent incumbent reelection rate, I think better people will run, and more people will run," Handy said in Miami Wednesday. "By any measure, the system is broken. It is not giving people representative government."

Term limits may be a worthwhile idea. Nothing guarantees that long-serving politicians will necessarily be intelligent, competent or even honest. And there is the intuitive sense that the more entrenched a politician gets, the more out of touch with voters he or she gets.

But my conversation with Handy didn't dispel my concerns about the campaign and its rhetoric. People are frustrated with politics, with good reason. But are supporters of term limits offering a remedy, or merely capitalizing on public frustration to turn a pet idea into law?

Supporters of term limits have eagerly seized upon Congress's recent rubber-check scandal to advance their cause. Handy said the 24 worst offenders served an average of 16 years in Congress. Yet he can't say they became offenders *because* they'd served so long, nor that term limits would reduce the likelihood of such a scandal.

Supporters can't promise that special-interest money won't continue to steer elections or that legislators won't still be in lobbyists' hip pockets. It could be argued that a political novice might actually be *more* vulnerable to interest-group pressure than a veteran.

Supporters haven't thought through how powerful committee chairmen would be selected, since seniority would no longer be a useful criterion. Would all states and regions get a fair shot at leadership positions?

Change is needed because "it can't get any worse," Handy said. That's not the same as saying, this is change for the better.

My observation so far is that term-limit enthusiasts tend to be Republican and conservative in orientation — maverick liberal Jerry Brown the noteworthy exception. Conservative columnists Pat Buchanan, Cal Thomas and George Will like the idea.

Is it coincidence that Congress and many state legislatures are controlled by Democrats? And that term limits would be a great way to unseat powerful long-time Democratic legislators where all else has failed? And that the expected increase in no-incumbent races might benefit Republicans, who often find it easier to raise money than Democrats?

I don't know; sorting out political intrigue is not my bailiwick. But I'd feel a whole lot better about term limits if the campaign had a more nonpartisan feel to it.

"My sense," Handy said, "is you'll get a better legislature." Frankly, a "sense" is a pretty poor basis for overhauling something, even something that needs overhauling. Term-limit supporters need to put together a persuasive analytical argument, rather than simply playing on popular frustration with politics.

Group says it has voters' support

Organizers say Eight is Enough got signatures from 141,271 Floridians on Super Tuesday.

An Associated Press Report

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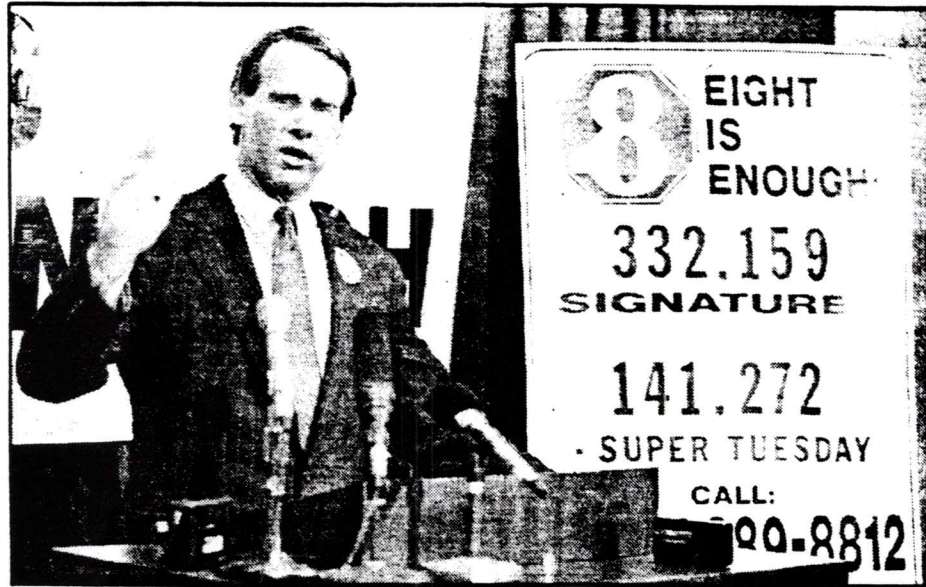
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Tribune photograph by COLIN HACKLEY
Phil Handy, chairman of Eight is Enough, discusses his group's philosophy at a news conference Wednesday in Tallahassee.

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