

Pollster says country wants limit on congressional terms

Americans want members of Congress to leave Washington after 12 years. This is one of the six basic political reforms that a majority of U.S. citizens are calling for, reports opinion pollster George Gallup in an article written for the August Reader's Digest.

The public, he discloses, has made clear that these changes should be enacted:

- A limit on the tenure of congressional representatives. Sixty per cent favored a resolution offered by freshman Sens. John Danforth (R-Mo.) and Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz.) limiting congressional service to 12 years. Presidents have been limited to two four-year terms since 1951. Gallup cites the advantages of such a plan: "It would tend to make ability, rather than length of service, the criterion in filling committee chairmanships... (and) it would bring in younger men and women, perhaps more in tune with the will of the people than those who have been following the same mental routines for decades."

- A fixed sum provided by the government to totally finance congressional campaigns. At an average cost of an additional \$2 a year per adult citizen, 57 per cent of Americans

approved the plan, which eliminates contributions from those seeking legislative favor and allows candidates to run without funding considerations.

- A nationwide primary for presidential candidates, to be held on the same day in each state. Although this proposal has had overwhelming support for nearly 25 years and is favored by 68 per cent of the voters, many citizens are still denied the right to vote directly for a presidential candidate. Not all states enter all primaries, and some states control selection through political conventions.

- A limit on the length of presidential campaigns; a national election in September; and inauguration in November. These measures would give the incoming President more time to form his policies before the opening of Congress in January and are favored by 68 per cent of those polled.

- Direct popular election of the President. Seventy-five per cent of the public believe a constitutional amendment is needed to eliminate the Electoral College. "Such a bill actually passed the House of Representatives by a lopsided margin in 1969—only to be filibustered to death by senators who have felt it would diminish their states' power," Gallup notes. Three times in the past the candidate with

the larger number of votes failed to win the presidency; and both the 1968 and 1976 elections very nearly yielded similar results.

- The right for voters to be consulted directly on important legislation. "A majority of 57 per cent supported a proposal introduced by Sens. James Abourezk (D-S.D.) and Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.) that would allow Americans to initiate federal legislation when a group of voters equal to three per cent of the number who voted in the last presidential election sign a petition requesting such a vote," Gallup writes. Even the threat of such direct popular intervention would unobtain bills that have languished in committee.

- Gallup observes that many of these measures are unlikely to be passed by Congress. Some would require constitutional amendments. President Eisenhower suggested a constitutional convention through which reforms could be introduced. But, Gallup feels, the reforms supported by the public "would help restore the kind of government that the farmers (of the constitution) actually had in mind—a government that owes nothing to political bosses, pressure groups or campaign contributors, guided only by the will of the people."

NAUTICAL WEATHER REPORTS

	AM	PM		AM	PM
Sunday	7:25	12:25	Saturday	7:25	12:25
Through	5:25	5:25	Through	5:25	5:25
Thursday			Friday		
Friday	7:25	12:25	Sunday	7:25	12:25
	6:25	6:25		6:25	6:25

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Beer booted from bench ballot

Oakland County Circuit Court Judge William J. Beer's name is off the Aug. 8 primary ballot.

Beer, who serves on the 11-man bench, was seeking election to one of the three newly-created seats. He was trying to take advantage of a legislative loophole that would have allowed him to escape forced retirement when his present term expired at the end of 1980. By being elected to one of the new seats, the 69-year-old Beer would have been able to sit on the bench until 1985.

The Michigan Supreme Court, in a 1-1 decision earlier this week, ordered Beer's name off the ballot.

Southfield Attorney Michael S. Friedman, one of 13 candidates seeking election to one of the new seats, filed the suit which led to the supreme court's order.

According to majority opinion, Beer did not qualify for the loophole because his term expired in 1981. To

qualify, the state supreme court justices said, his term would have had to expire in 1979.

Justices joining in the majority opinion were Thomas G. Kavanagh, Charles L. Levin, Mary S. Coleman, John W. Fitzgerald and Blair Moody Jr. Dissenting was Justice James L. Ryan. Justice G. Mennen Williams did not participate in the opinion.

FRIEDMAN, WHO had conceded one of the three new seats to Beer, was elated over the Supreme Court ruling.

Had Beer's name appeared on the ballot, he would have had the advantage of being designated an incumbent judge and would have received a preferred spot on the ballot. Because of the advantages, said Richard Lustig, treasurer of Friedman's campaign, Friedman and every candidate vying for one of the new seats had conceded Beer victory in the primary and gen-

eral elections.

The supreme court ruling "opens up a spot that each of the candidates has a chance at," Lustig said. With Beer in the race, Lustig said, there were effectively only two seats to be filled.

IN SPITE OF the supreme court's ruling, Beer did not seem disconcerted. "Suffice it to say," Beer said, "Judge Beer is not crying in his beer."

According to his attorneys, Tom Downs, Richard Condit and former Wayne County Circuit Court Judge James N. Canham, Beer would ask the supreme court to reconsider its order. They also indicated they were considering further appeals.

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Gifts set new record at Oakland University

Gifts and grants to Oakland University for 1977-78 totaled \$3,829,696 topping the \$3 million mark for the first time in the institution's history.

The support for the fiscal year which ended June 30 is 41.2 per cent higher than the previous record of \$2,712,672 reached in 1977-78.

The grant summary includes only funds received from government and private agencies and for research, educational, and development programs. Individual faculty fellowships, government programs and construction financial aid are not included.

For the fiscal year, 75 proposals were funded and 71 were pending compared with 71 funded proposals and 57 undecided during fiscal 1976-77.

The top ten units for the past year in terms of fund support were student affairs with \$608,270; continuing education, \$428,853; education, \$420,601; urban affairs, \$380,278; general university support, \$355,589; institute of bio-

logical sciences, \$352,717; chemistry, \$344,516; department of biological sciences, \$303,539; engineering, \$187,850; and psychology, \$178,949.

Among the major grants were: \$222,400 from the National Science Foundation to the department of chemistry to strengthen its undergraduate instructional program; \$169,723 from the Michigan Department of Social Services for the course department of the division of continuing education to provide paralegal training for the state's social service workers; \$150,000 from the U.S. Department of Labor for a school of education manpower development program; \$133,946 from the U.S. Office of Education to support the Oakland University-Farmington Youth Advocacy Teacher Corps also run by the School of Education; and \$321,814 from Oakland County for a student intern program offered through the urban affairs center.



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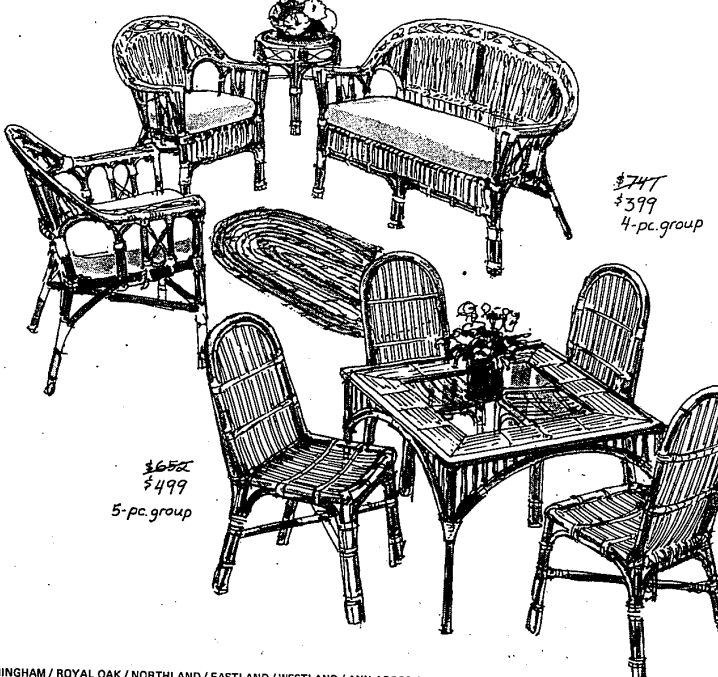
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