

# Politicos react to term limit bid

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hobby of the rich," as asserted by an opponent.

Both views were voiced by politically active area residents interviewed this week after the filing in Lansing of petitions to put term limitations on the ballot in 1992.

One activist who favors term limitations is Ronna Romney, a resident of Bloomfield Hills and a member of the National Republican Committee. "It's sad that we've come to this," she said. "But term limitations are absolutely necessary. We might lose some good people, but that's the price we have to pay to get back to good government."

Romney believes, however, term limitations at the state level will not withstand the inevitable legal challenges in federal court.

"The way to limit terms at the federal level," she insists, "is through a constitutional amendment" that must be ratified by a majority of the state legislatures.

STATE REP. JAN DOLAN, R-Farmington Hills, sees "good and bad aspects of term limitations. It will get rid of some of bad legislators. But they also force lawmakers to step back into the real world... and live under the laws they have promulgated."

She is concerned, however, that term limitations may also discourage some otherwise competent people from going into politics. "Judy Riedlinger, a Bloomfield Township resident who is also Republican chairwoman of the 18th Congressional District, also sees term limitations as a double-edged sword."

"There are some elected officials who are doing a great job, and you don't necessarily want to get rid of them," she said. "But people are frustrated. And they may have to put up with that in order to get rid of the people who aren't doing their job."

County commissioner Donn L.

**"I see the benefits, but I don't want to turn government over to the bureaucracy — the lobbyists and administrators who seem to run things now."**

— Commissioner Donn L. Wolf  
R-Farmington Hills

Wolf, R-Farmington Hills, has mixed feelings about term limitations, especially those proposed Monday. "I see the benefits, but I don't want to turn government over to the bureaucracy — the lobbyists and administrators who seem to run things now."

"I guess I am for term limitation, but I'm not sure about this proposal," he continued. "It seems a bit drastic."

RAYMOND B. DUGAN, a Troy businessman, insists term limitation is a method that enables voters to "clean the scum out of government."

Dugan, who helped mobilize the Oakland County Taxpayers Association behind the petition drive, said term limitations are the only way to keep law career politicians from "losing sight of the reason they were elected in the first place."

But term limitations is, in fact, a thinly-veiled attempt by ultra conservatives to subvert the political system, according to Donald Tucker, a lawyer from Birmingham who is also chairman of the Oakland County Democratic Party.

"We already have term limitation," he said. "It's periodic elections that enable voters to throw somebody out of office, either in the primary or in the general election."

"Term limitations (as proposed by

petitions filed Monday) is an attempt by right-wing Republicans to make holding office the hobby of the idle rich," he said. "I think term limitations stink."

Tucker's Republican counterpart, James M. Alexander, also a Birmingham attorney, declined to comment on term limitations. "As a member of the state Board of Canvassers (which will validate or disallow the petitions) I really can't comment."

"BUT I AM looking forward to certifying the petitions," he said. Arrissie D. Evans, Democratic vice chairwoman of the 17th Congressional District, said she personally hasn't given much thought to the impact of term limitations.

"I knew it was in the works, but I haven't thought it through," she said. "I guess that if the people decide

they want term limitations, we'll have to live with them."

Term limitations could affect the number of middle and low income residents who seek public office, said Evans, a Southfield resident. "Not many companies will grant leaves of absence so employees can hold public office."

Tucker was more emphatic. "Term limitations will put public office out of reach for the average person. The average person can't take time away from a career or business to hold public office for four, six or eight years."

Marvin Meltzer, a Birmingham Democrat who is vice chairman of the 18th Congressional District, said term limitations are a "waste of human resources."

They force elected officials to step down just as they are starting to get good at their jobs, he said.

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