



Term limits FAQ

What is the issue North Dakotans will vote on in November?

Measure 1 is a North Dakota Constitutional measure that will limit the governor to two four-year terms and state legislators to serving eight years in the House and eight years in the Senate.

A yes vote means you approve of term limits. A no vote means you don't approve of term limits.

What will Measure 1 do, if passed?

It will limit terms of state legislators and the governor. It will not apply to any other elected officials, county, state or national.

How many other states have term limits for state legislators?

According to Ballotpedia, 15 states have term limits on state legislators. Six other states approved term limits, but the measures were overturned later.

As of 2022, 36 states have some type of term limit for governors.¹

Do term limits work?

Michigan was one of the first states to adopt legislative term limits. A study by the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, reveals that voters received no tangible benefit after term limits took effect. According to the study: "With respect to the Legislature as an institution, term limits appear to be redistributing power away from the majority party leaders and toward governors and legislative staffers."²

Anecdotally, when several state Farm Bureaus were contacted about terms limits imposed in their states, none indicated that term limits were positive. In fact, all indicated that if they could, they would go back. Rural states say they struggle to keep ag-friendly legislators when they are term-limited because they are often replaced by someone with little personal connection to production agriculture.

Is there a problem in North Dakota?

This measure has nothing to do with Congress or other elected officials on the national level. In North Dakota, since the 2015 Legislative Session, 27 of the 47 Senate seats will have turned over after this fall's election. Of the 94 House seat, half will be in different hands after this fall. That means half of all legislative seats will be turning over in less than 10 years.

Freedom to choose

From a personal voter perspective, term limits restrict your ability to support an incumbent legislator of your choosing. Is it right for the state to tell you, you can't continue to vote for a legislator you support?

1 [North Dakota Constitutional Measure 1, Term Limits for Governor and State Legislators Initiative \(2022\) - Ballotpedia](#)

2 [Term Limits in State Legislatures \(umich.edu\)](#)