

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis visits Ohio to advocate for term limits in Congress

By **Haley BeMiller**
Columbus Dispatch

An effort by Ohio Republicans to push for term limits in Congress has a high-profile backer: Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

DeSantis visited the Ohio Statehouse May 13 in support of a resolution sponsored by Rep. Heidi Workman, R-Rootstown, that would call for a [convention of states](#) on term limits. The idea is part of a movement among [conservative activists](#) who contend the federal government is too powerful and unaccountable to people.

Term limits are broadly popular, with 87% of adults backing them for members of Congress, according to a [2023 Pew Research Center survey](#).

"If you have term limits, it will change the incentives," DeSantis told reporters. "You know you have a limited amount of time, so make something of it. Do some big things that are actually going to leave a legacy that you can look back on."

There are two ways to [change the U.S. Constitution](#): Congress can pass a resolution with a two-thirds vote in both houses, or 34 states can apply for a convention to propose amendments. Any amendments that come out of the convention must then be approved by three-fourths of states.

A convention of states has never happened in U.S. history. Critics say bad actors could use the process to make sweeping changes to the Constitution.

Florida and 11 other states have passed resolutions for a convention on term limits, according to the advocacy group [U.S. Term Limits](#). DeSantis contends Congress will take action if more states get on board, but he also believes 38 states would ratify an amendment.

The 2024 Republican presidential candidate also dismissed speculation that the visit was tied to his future political plans. DeSantis' parents and wife have roots in the Buckeye State, and [he campaigned in Youngstown](#) during his failed presidential primary bid.

"This has nothing to do with running for anything," DeSantis said. "I've been involved with term limits for probably 15 years now."

Does Ohio have term limits?

Ohio has term limits for statewide offices and the Legislature – but it isn't that straight forward.

Lawmakers can reset their clock by bouncing between the House and Senate. For example, House Speaker Matt Huffman, R-Lima, began his legislative career in 2007 as a House member, switched to the Senate and rose to Senate president, then moved back to the House this year to become speaker.

"The farther away the government is from the people, the more important term limits are," Huffman said during the news conference.

At the federal level, Sen. Bernie Moreno, R-Ohio, pledged to serve only two terms in the Senate and previously worked with [U.S. Term Limits](#).

But not all members of Ohio's delegation are on the same page. Toledo Democrat Marcy Kaptur is the longest-serving woman in Congress, and several others – including conservative firebrand Jim Jordan – have held their seats for more than a decade.