



Term Limits, Expanded Broadcast, Enhanced Disclosures And a Code of Conduct All Find Favor Among Conservatives

As the newly named members of the Biden administration's Supreme Court Reform Commission begin their work, here's what conservatives have said of Supreme Court reform proposals.

Supreme Court Term Limits

Sen. John Kennedy (R-Louisiana): “I would sure love to have the [term limits] debate. I don’t know exactly how I would come down, but it’s certainly worth talking about.” [December 6, 2018; [link](#)]

Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Missouri): “But what if justices were not appointed for life? Or, more precisely, what if they did not serve on the Supreme Court for life? One way to foster a more circumspect attitude toward the Court’s role is to change the justices’ incentives in deciding cases. If they know they will not remain on the Court for an extended period of time, and that the rules they craft will shortly be applied by someone else, they may be far less likely to charge so eagerly into constitutional politics. Article III demands that judges be appointed for life, but it does not necessarily require that Supreme Court justices serve for life — provided they remain judges when not on the Court.” [Fall 2012; [link](#)]

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas): “Sadly, the court’s hubris and thirst for power have reached unprecedented levels. That calls for meaningful action.” [June 26, 2015; [link](#)]

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Florida): “I am a supporter [...of] term limits on members of Congress and the Supreme Court.” [January 4, 2016; [link](#)]

Expanded Broadcast of Supreme Court Proceedings

Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa): “Decisions made by the Supreme Court can resonate with our nation for generations, yet most Americans will never have a chance to see the highest court in action. Opening up the Supreme Court’s public proceedings to cameras and other broadcast tools provides a window into the court for all Americans, not just those in Washington, D.C.” [March 18, 2021; [link](#)]

Enhanced Disclosure Requirements of Supreme Court Justices

Sen. John Kennedy (R-Louisiana): “The legislative branch makes a great deal of information publicly available to those who elect them. Supreme Court justices serve lifetime appointments and should provide a similar level of transparency to Americans as the lawmakers who serve at the Capitol.” [March 24, 2021; [link](#)]

An Ethics Code for the Supreme Court

Rep. Ben Cline (R-Va.): “I believe that Congress does have the authority under Article I, section 8, to regulate the courts. I think there’s general unanimity that the Supreme Court should operate under a code of conduct.” [June 21, 2019; [link](#)]