

WORKSHOP

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How to Enforce Term Limits? From Hard Deadlines to Golden Parachutes

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Abstract

In response to the pervasive evasion of term limits, some constitutional designers entrench term limits more deeply, often by making them unamendable. Call such a mechanism, "hard term limits." One objective of this paper is to theorize and document historical cases of such limits and assess their consequences. Do the limits work as expected in preventing term-limit evasion and the collateral damage caused to constitutions? I analyze a varying set of data on such limits and compare their efficacy to a set of other mechanisms, such as incentivized exit plans, intended to maximize term-limit compliance.