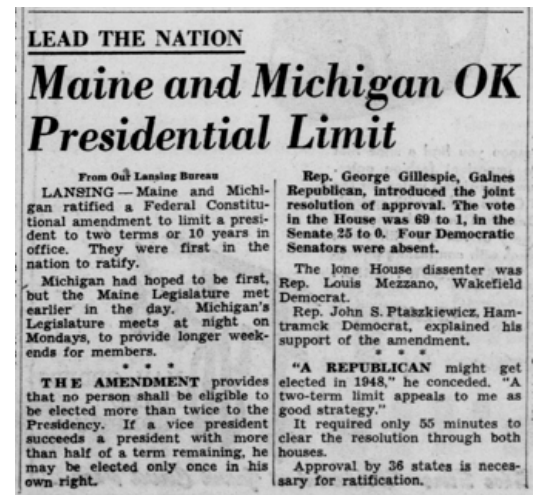


Michigan

The 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, which limits a person to being elected to the presidency two times, and sets additional eligibility conditions for presidents who succeed to the presidency, was voted out of Congress by a supermajority vote in both chambers. Between 1947 and 1951, the 22nd Amendment was ratified by 41 state legislatures and officially came into effect after 36 states ratified the amendment in February 1951. Since the history of the 22nd Amendment's passage and the intent of those who ratified it has become relevant again, this factsheet is part of a series covering each state's ratification process.

Michigan's consideration of the 22nd Amendment:

- Michigan's legislature voted to ratify the 22nd Amendment on [March 31, 1947](#), becoming the second state to do so after Maine ratified the Amendment earlier in the day.
- The joint resolution to ratify the Amendment passed by overwhelming supermajorities in the legislature. The [vote](#) in the Michigan House of Representatives was bipartisan and 69 to 1.
- The Michigan Senate [adopted](#) the resolution by a vote of 25 to 0.
- Republican supermajorities in both chambers presided over the Michigan legislature's effort to ratify the 22nd Amendment. The joint resolution was introduced in the Michigan House by Republican Representative George Gillespie.
- [Republicans outnumbered Democrats](#) 96 to 5 in the Michigan House of Representatives and 28 to 4 in the Michigan Senate.
- During the ratification process, Democratic Representative John S. Ptazkiewicz explained his support for the amendment stating that "[a] two-term limit appeals to me as a good strategy."



Cases involving the 22nd Amendment in Michigan:

- Case law in Michigan highlights both the "unambiguous" and "familiar" public understanding of the 22nd Amendment's "lifetime" ban on a president being elected to more than two terms in office.

- In [*Citizens for Legis. Choice v. Miller*](#), the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan held that the language of Art. 4, § 54 of the Michigan Constitution was “unambiguous” and “absolute” in imposing a lifetime term limit for state representatives who had already served their maximum allowance. [993 F. Supp. 1041, 1051 n. 14 \(E.D. Mich. 1998\)](#). The Court noted that “§ 54’s language is almost identical to the Twenty Second Amendment’s limit on the number of terms an individual may serve as President.” The Court also cited a Ninth Circuit decision holding that drafters of a term limit provision “easily could have presented to the voters an unambiguous lifetime-ban provision by simply tracking language of the [22nd Amendment]” (quoting [Bates v. Jones](#), 131 F.3d 843, 856 n. 21 (9th Cir. 1997) (en banc)).
- In [*Massey v. Sec’y of State*](#), the Michigan Supreme Court upheld a ballot measure to apply term limits to members of the Michigan legislature. The Court analogized state term limits to the 22nd Amendment, stating: “[W]e observe, as did the circuit court, that the term limit with which the average voter is most familiar is the limit on the office of President of the United States. That is a lifetime limit.” [457 Mich. 410, 421 \(Mich. 1998\)](#)