

Connecticut

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.

Connecticut's consideration of the 22nd Amendment:

- Connecticut's legislature voted to ratify the 22nd Amendment on May 21, 1947.
- On April 1, 1947, Republican Governor James McConaughy transmitted a certified copy of the resolution from Congress to Connecticut's General Assembly.
- On April 29, 1947, House Joint Resolution No. 272 was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.
- Despite a failed motion to postpone action on House Joint Resolution No. 272 to the next session of the General Assembly, on May 15, 1951, the resolution was adopted.
- *The Hartford Courant* noted the "long debate" in the House over the measure. Democratic Leader John P. Cotter criticized the amendment for being aimed at President Roosevelt and placing restrictions upon free choice.
- Republican Representative George Ramsey said the amendment was a "forward-looking piece of legislation, aimed at no one." He warned, "There is no indispensable man, and if that fallacy arises, there is the end of our Republic."
- On May 21, 1947, the resolution passed in the Senate by a vote of 25 to 7 (with 4 excused/absent/abstaining). That margin was significantly more than the 17 votes necessary for passage.

House Backs Presidential Term Limit

Amendment Providing Eight-Year Periods in White House Ratified

A Democratic move to postpone consideration of an amendment to the Federal Constitution setting a two-terms limit to the Presidency until the next General Assembly, to permit popular discussion, was ~~smothered~~ Thursday as the House ~~approved~~ a resolution ratifying the amendment.

Although Democratic Leader John P. Cotter said the amendment was obviously aimed at the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Representative George Ramsey, Republican, of Hampton, called the amendment a "forward-looking piece of legislation, aimed at no one."

Mr. Cotter said he felt no restrictions should be placed upon the free choice of the people, especially since the public had had no chance to discuss the measure with the members of the Assembly. Mr. Ramsey inquired if Mr. Cotter believed that free choice existed under the system of nominating conventions and electoral votes.

Emphasizing the purpose of the amendment, he declared: "There is no indispensable man, and if that fallacy arises, there is the end of our Republic."

- Senators voted along party lines, with all [Republicans voting yes](#) and all Democrats voting no.

Cases involving the 22nd Amendment in Connecticut:

- There are no relevant cases in Connecticut that analyze the requirements of the 22nd Amendment.