

Iowa

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.

Iowa's consideration of the 22nd Amendment:

- Iowa's legislature voted to ratify the 22nd Amendment on April 1, 1947, one of the earliest states to do so.
- The matter moved quickly through both chambers of the Iowa legislature. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman [Frank Byers](#) (R) drafted the resolution on March 26, 1947, with The Cedar Rapids Gazette [noting](#) that: "There remained some question as to how soon the legislature should act on [the amendment], however, as formal and official notice that congress has adopted the proposal has not been received."
- On March 30, the resolution [passed](#) the Senate overwhelmingly and in [bipartisan](#) fashion with a vote of 46 to 3 (with 1 absent/non-voting).
- On April 1, 1947, the House followed suit, [passing](#) "Senate Joint Resolution 10, a joint resolution ratifying a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, relating to the term of office of the President" by a [bipartisan](#) vote of 85 to 8 (with 15 absent/non-voting).
- In explaining his vote joining Republicans in support of the amendment, [Democrat](#) House Rep. Eugene "Gene" Poston [said](#): "With the understanding that Senate Joint Resolution 10 in no way is a reflection upon our late president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, I am supporting this resolution. I believe that a limitation of two terms for the president of

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In hopes of making Iowa the first state to ratify the proposed amendment to the U. S. Constitution which would limit presidential tenure to 10 years, the senate judiciary committee introduced a joint ratification resolution.

The resolution has passed both houses of congress and must be ratified by three-fourths of the states to become the twenty-second amendment. The amendment would limit the President's tenure to two full terms plus a maximum of two years of any unexpired term in cases where a vice-president succeeds to the office.

The senate judiciary committee, headed by Frank C. Byers (R-Cedar Rapids), drafted the resolution Wednesday night. There remained some question as to how soon the legislature should act on it, however, as formal and official notice that congress has adopted the proposal has not been received. The congressional action did not require President Truman's signature.

The Iowa resolution must be approved by both houses of the legislature. Indications were that it would pass with ease.

the United States or the governor of the state of Iowa is in the interest of good government, with the possible exception of serious emergencies.”

- On April 3, 1947, Iowa Governor Robert D. Blue (R) [signed](#) the resolution.

Cases involving the 22nd Amendment in Iowa:

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