

The Demand for Term Limits

January 8, 2023

Lots of talk about [term limits](#) last week — *in Washington*.

Of all places.

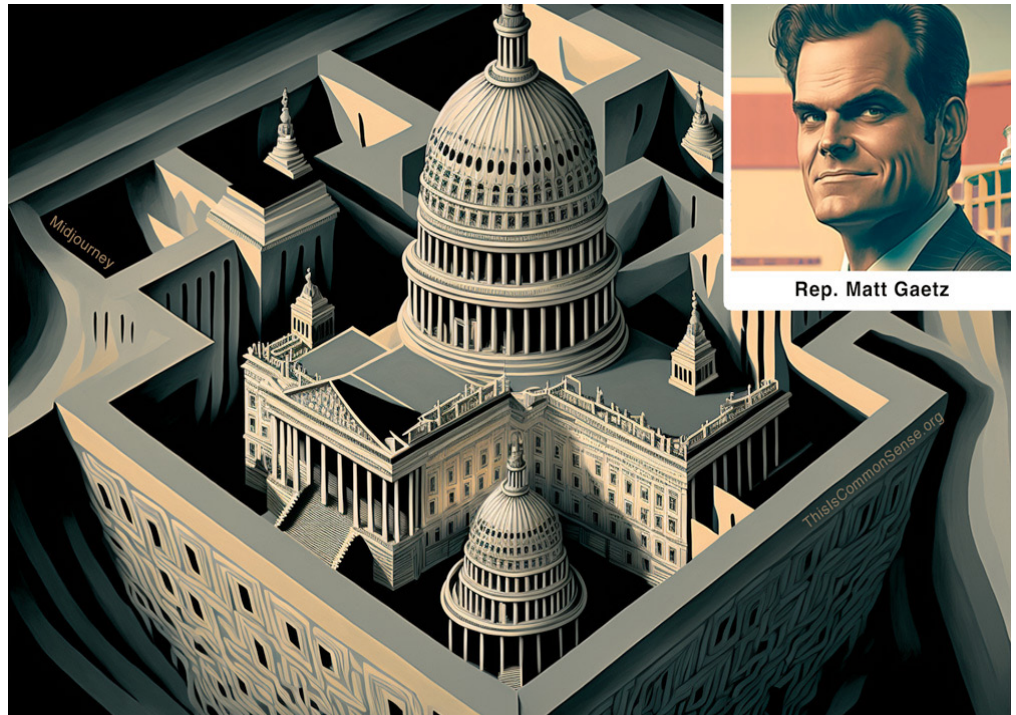
What bizarre chain of events caused career congressmen to start jawboning and horse-trading about the popular reform that most of them viscerally oppose?

It was the work-product of a small number of hardcore conservative Republican legislators, a mere 20, flexing

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their strength and commitment at a critical political point — the election of the House Speaker — *and armed with concrete demands*.

“We offered Kevin McCarthy terms last evening that he rejected,” Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) [told](#) reporters last Tuesday. One of those? “We’ve sought a vote in [the] first quarter of the 118th Congress on term limits.”



By week’s end, however, McCarthy had been elected Speaker of the House . . . but only after having pledged to bring to the floor that congressional term limits [amendment](#), authored by Rep. Ralph Norman (R-SC), one of the 20 holdouts, along with making other [concessions](#).

Meet the Press host Chuck Todd yesterday [cast shade](#) on the effort, calling these “show votes.”

While it’s true that incumbents are unlikely to vote for the term limits amendment in the 2/3 supermajority the Constitution requires, or for the balanced budget amendment for which the holdouts, mostly Freedom Caucus members, also secured a commitment from McCarthy.

“We’ve got to start taking steps to make fundamental change in America,” Rep. James Comer (R-Ky.) told Todd. And putting every U.S. representative on record on term limits sounds like a great first step for early 2023.

Worth the battle.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.