

Term Limits in Colorado

Term limits are set in the Colorado Constitution for elected officials at the congressional, state, and local governmental levels. The table below shows the office and the effective date for the start of term limits, the number of consecutive terms that may be served, and the number of years that these limits represent.

	Office	Number of Consecutive Terms that May Be Served ¹	Number of Years in that Office
Congressional (State limits on congressional terms were struck down by the United States Supreme Court in <i>US Term Limits, Inc. v. Thornton</i> , 115 S. Ct. 1842 (1995)).			
	U.S. Senate	2 terms	12 years
	U.S. House of Representatives	3 terms	6 years
State Legislature (Effective 1-1-91): ²			
	Colorado Senate	2 terms	8 years
	Colorado House of Representatives	4 terms	8 years
State Executive Department (Effective 1-1-91): ²			
	Governor	2 terms	8 years
	Lieutenant Governor		
	Secretary of State		
	State Treasurer		
	Attorney General		
State Education Boards (Effective 1-1-95):			
	State Board of Education	2 terms	12 years
	University of Colorado Board of Regents		
Local Governments (Effective 1-1-95): ³			
	County, City and County, City, Town, School District, Service Authority, and any Other Political Subdivision.	2 terms if the terms are longer than 2 years; 3 terms if the terms are for 2 years or less	Generally, 6 or 8 years, depending on the length of the term

¹Terms of office are considered "consecutive" unless they are at least 4 years apart.

²Partial terms count as full terms if at least one half of a term is served.

³Voters in local governments may lengthen, shorten, or eliminate the term limits in their jurisdictions.

Citations: Colo. Const. Art. IV, sec.1; Art. V, sec.3; Art. XVIII, secs.9a and 11.