



Letters to the Editor

Supermajorities

In Gary Benoit's 11/22/2010 Last Word article "With the Ballot, Who Needs Term Limits?" he says that term limits will not only not work to get our country on track, but they may be counterproductive.

But in the last midterm election, we have come close to, if not already beyond the point of, losing our liberty. That tells me that something different needs to be done.

We have had it so good for so long — with all of our toys to occupy our free time — that we have let our governments govern themselves. A result is that the country is broke and record numbers of people are losing their homes, cars, and toys; this leads to anger and the call to "throw the bums out."

The problem with accomplishing throwing them out is the fact that incumbents have every advantage, and so Members of Congress spend their entire working careers as politicians, filling their pockets, voting themselves raises, enjoying high-end medical and retirement plans, etc.

Let's level the playing field: After a certain number of terms, an incumbent should have to win by a supermajority to stay in office, such as five percent more votes than the first runner-up to stay in office.

I don't think our Founding Fathers had in mind professional politicians running the country. That's why they created checks and balances as methods of taking our country back.

W. Redmond

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Demos of Depredations

A scanning company demo — for TSA scanners — shows a male remote viewer examining the scans of naked men and women and a 4½-foot tall pubescent girl! Two other demos show young females examining naked males — all the better to promote sales of scanners to places without room or resources for two scanners, or to places that won't go to the bother of separating the sexes before scanning them.

A separate video shows that TSA's remote viewers seem only separated from each other (and who knows who else might be roaming past) by short eye shields — but I guess if they cannot see us directly it's all right. Just don't sneak a strip scanner into a school or a women's club or it's 10 years in prison.

Of course, those of us who don't like scanning/groping are told, "Don't fly."

Constitutionally that amounts to saying if you don't want your house searched don't buy a house. You should be able to go about your daily business without being strip searched or private-area touched — even if it could prevent a 1-in-20-million chance that a terrorist may blow up your flight. Clearly TSA scans do not fit "administrative search" first-principles, which require low invasiveness and high need.

Eighth-grade math is enough to debunk the need for scanners at every airport:

According to Dana Milbank in the *Washington Post*, it would cost \$50 more per ticket to achieve Israeli-level security that could actually catch (and therefore deter) a terrorist, but how many are ready to fork over the money? If not a majority, terrorists on planes must not be a very material threat.



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Common sense says scanning/groping won't even work: Current scanning and groping means that illicit objects will just go deeper into body cavities or be hidden in the fat of more rotund terrorists. A homegrown terrorist who can't figure that out can always buy an overseas round-trip ticket and carry his bomb in from abroad from airports that don't have scanners, or begin their flights in small U.S. airports that don't have scanners. In the meantime, those who are pushed away from flying take greater risks with their lives on highways to avoid intimate privacy violations that they (and their children) just cannot stomach.

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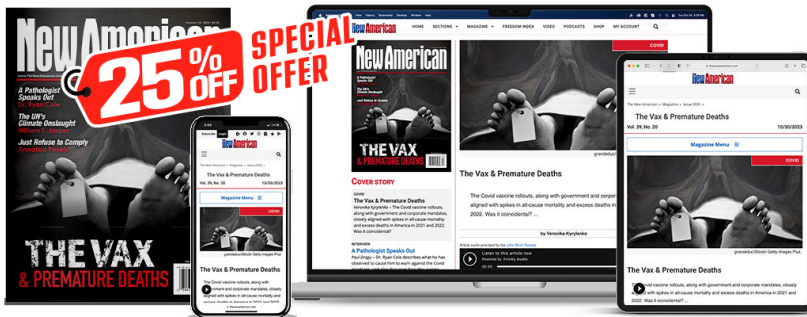


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