

An Open Letter to Llew Jones

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Llew,

With all due respect, enough, when it comes to your dogged determination to unlawfully entrench yourself as a Montana legislator in blatant defiance of term limits. Term limits are clearly defined in Article IV, section 8 of The Constitution of the State of Montana.

With all of the vainglory you regularly exhibit regarding your education, intelligence, and penchant for numbers, one would think that you would have the ability to read and comprehend the aforementioned Article IV, section 8.

Term limits described as 8 or more years within any 16 year period, seems quite obviously, to be an example of plain and clear usage of the English language, and calculating 8 or more years within any 16 year period seems basic arithmetic.

I am not without respect for you, so if that is a concern of yours, it needn't be. I am concerned, however, that should you continue on your current course of action, you risk making an absolute mockery of yourself, and for that, you

shall have only yourself to blame.

Admittedly, my greater concern is, the absolute disrespect that you now exhibit towards every Montanan, and the mockery you make of the very same Constitution, which you have on multiple occasions, sworn to protect and defend.

You have defied court orders before when they were unconstitutional. However, with Abbot's decision, you say "The Judge put it pretty cleanly – you don't move the goalposts in the middle of the game." Your practice of flouting term limits is not a game. Further, this is not a matter of moving goalposts, rather, you are seeking to impose entirely new rules upon our government for the purposes of serving your own self-interests.

Let me remind you the Judge also wrote that a “purely literal reading” of the constitution leads to the legal opinion reached by Knudsen. The constitution is a document comprised of words. A literal reading is entirely reasonable, especially in this case.

Steve Bullocks 2012 opinion, which reportedly, included a personal invention of an eight year break, was an extra-constitutional contrivance.

Certain representatives, including yourself, emboldened by that opinion, have knowingly made the violation of term limits standard practice. That does not make it lawful.

You used Bullock's opinion as justification for your unlawful actions, and when Attorney General Knudson provided his opinion you maintained that it was not for him to decide. Why then, according to you, was Bullock's opinion one of authority? The answer is clear, because it served you.

Montanan's have been clear about term limits, and the constitution is clear, and we don't appreciate self-serving, entitled, career-politicians that operate outside of the bounds of the law while expecting everyday Montanan's to adhere to the law.

Again, I am not without respect for you. However, I respectfully ask you to strongly consider having some respect for yourself, and the constitution, before you erode the peoples trust in our government to an even further degree.

Cordially,
Nate White 