Q25 – How long is a term for a member of the House of Representatives?

DOUGLAS GINSBURG, Federal Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit:
Representatives are elected for a term of two years. So how did the Framers of the Constitution come up with that number?

At the time, many state legislators had a term of one year – making them frequently accountable to the voters. Some Framers argued that one year isn't enough time for a new Representative to learn the ropes. And part of the year would be consumed by travel, which was slow in those days.
A journey to the nation's capital might have taken several weeks for representatives from Georgia. On the other hand, a term of three or four years might insulate representatives too much from the voters. The Framers compromised on two years.