Legislative Term Limits in Missouri

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Rationale for Term Limits

- End Careerism
  - Careerists out of touch with constituents
  - Obsessed with maintaining power

- Change electoral politics
  - Increase competition
  - Reduce the role of money in elections

- Reduce lobbyist influence
Missouri Term Limits

- 8 years maximum in each chamber
- Life time
- Until 2002, partial terms counted as full
- Applied to “elected or appointed” until 2002

Assessing the Need for Term Limits

- Turnover rate 1981-present
- Average tenure 1911-2004
Percent Turnover in Missouri General Assembly, 1981-2003

Average Tenure in Missouri General Assembly, 1911 - 2004
Impact on Experience

- Average tenure in House
- Years of experience, House
- Years of experience, Senate

Missouri House Average Years of Tenure, 2003 and 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Republican Tenure</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>2.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Democratic Tenure</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Tenure in Missouri House</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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Years of Experience in the Missouri House, 2004

Years of Experience in the Missouri Senate, 2004

* Includes additional service of 5 members who served before term limits took effect.
Institutional Implications of Term Limits

- Loss of senior members
- Leadership
- House v. Senate

Leadership Tenure, 1981-2003
Legislative Experience Among Members of the Missouri Legislature, 2004

Term Limits – The role of other actors

- Lobbyists
- Agencies
- Staff – partisan & non-partisan
Term Limits and Public Policy

Legislature at its best:

- Knowledgeable – government & issues
- Independent
  - Executive Branch
  - Lobbyists & constituents
- Creative

Term Limits and Public Policy

- Weakens the most representative institution of government
- Does not automatically strengthen others
  - Governor
  - Lobbyists
  - Bureaucracy
- But there will not be independent, knowledgeable, creative, legislative bodies under term limits