

Legislative Term Limits in Missouri

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David C. Valentine

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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

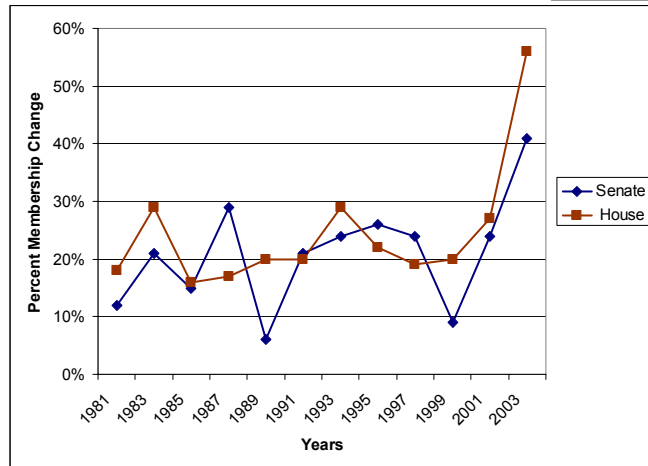


Assessing the Need for Term Limits

- **Turnover rate 1981- present**
- **Average tenure 1911-2004**

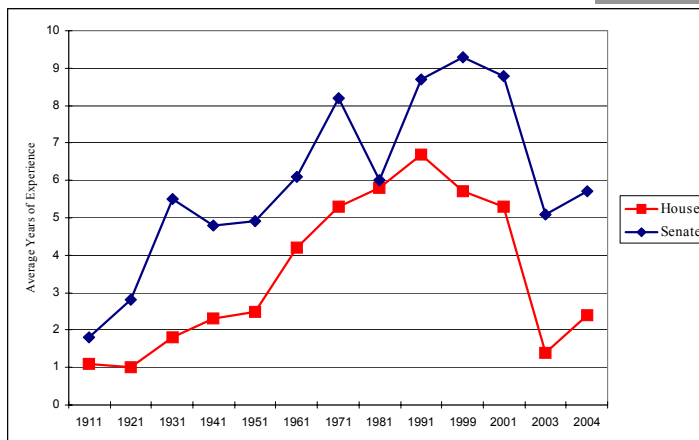


Percent Turnover in Missouri General Assembly, 1981-2003



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Average Tenure in Missouri General Assembly, 1911 - 2004



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Impact on Experience

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

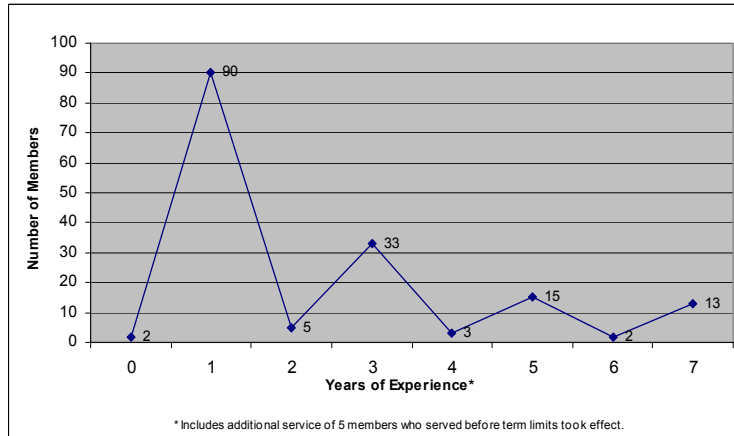


Missouri House Average Years of Tenure, 2003 and 2004

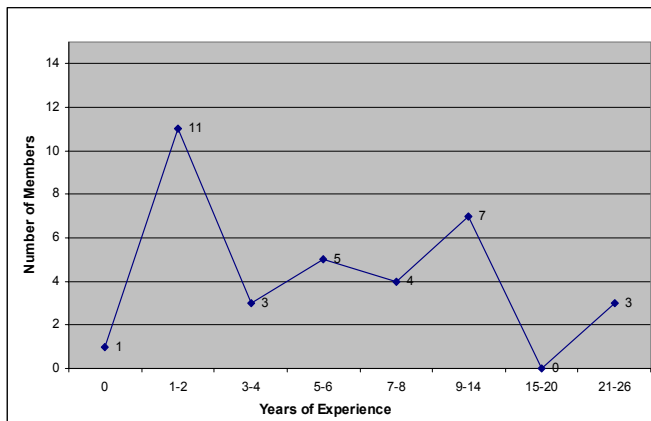
	2003	2004
Average Republican Tenure	1.1	2.1
Average Democratic Tenure	1.8	2.7
Average Tenure in Missouri House	1.4	2.3



Years of Experience in the Missouri House, 2004



Years of Experience in the Missouri Senate, 2004

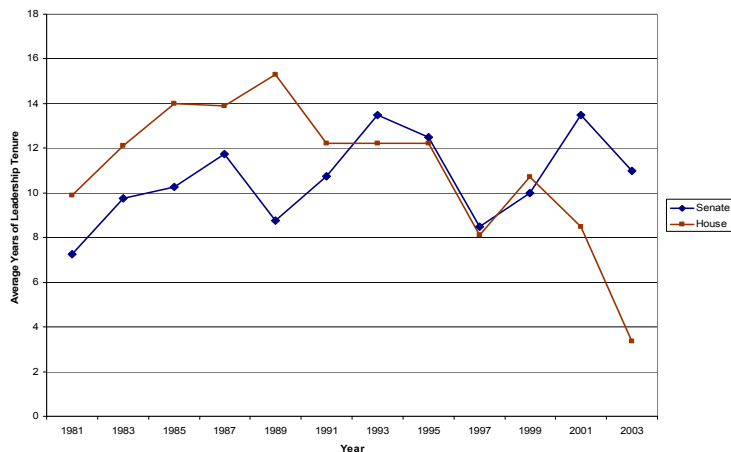


Institutional Implications of Term Limits

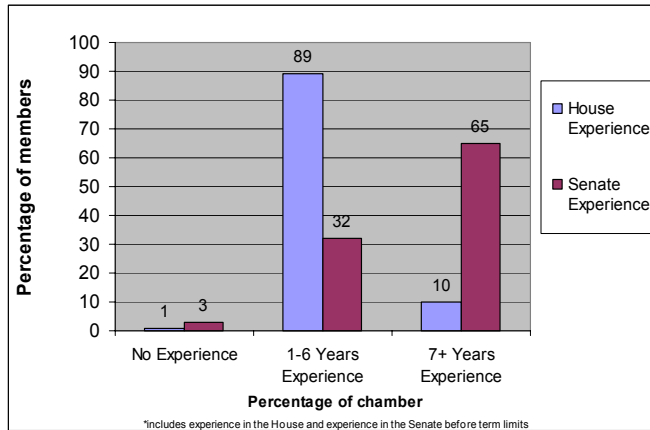
- Loss of senior members
- Leadership
- House v. Senate



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

