

Term Limits in Missouri

Life with Term Limits Conference

April 29 – 30, 2004

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Richardson, L. E. (2004) Term Limits in Missouri, Report 38-2004. Retrieved [Month, Day, Year], from University of Missouri – Columbia, Institute of Public Policy Web site:
<http://www.truman.missouri.edu/ipp/publications/presentations.html>

Overview

- 1992 – constitutional amendment passed as a ballot initiative
- Approved by 75% of voters
- 8 year lifetime limit
- Full effect of term limits
 - 2002
 - 73 members not eligible in the House (45%)
 - 12 members not eligible in the Senate (35%)
 - 2004
 - 11 members not eligible in the Senate

Confounding Effects

- Partisan shift
 - Senate in 2001, House in 2003
- Redistricting in 2002
- Result in 2003
 - 90 new members in the House (55%)
 - 13 new members in the Senate (38%)



Case Study Approach

- Interviews
 - Legislators, staffers, and lobbyists
 - Previous and current experience with General Assembly
 - December 2003 to April 2004
- Survey
 - 48% response rate in Missouri
- Data Collection
 - Compiled historical information on Missouri General Assembly

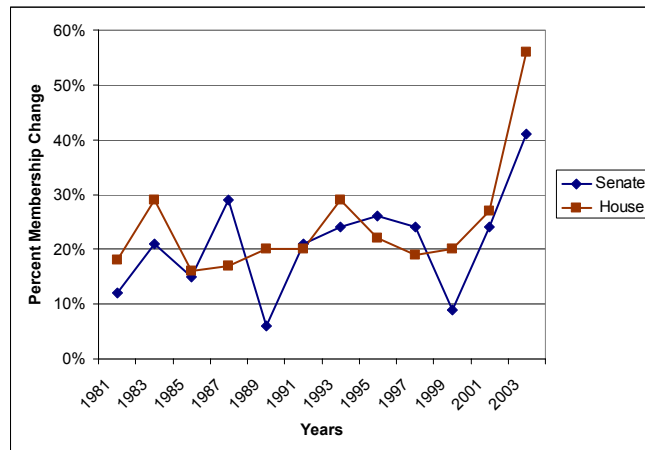


Legislator Characteristics

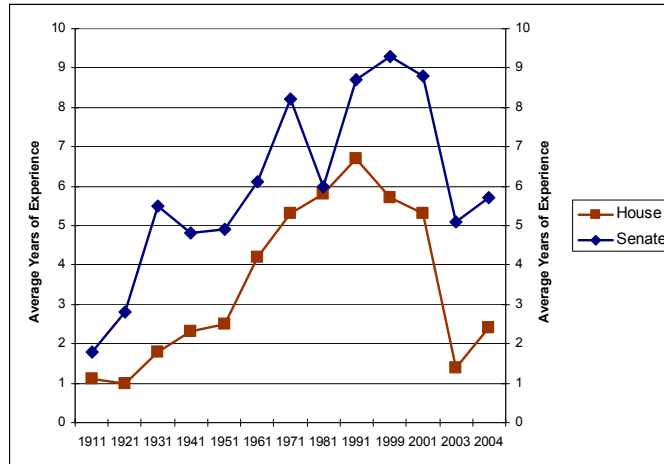
- No significant differences in age, gender, or minority characteristics as the result of term limits
- Age in Years
 - 1991 – 47(H); 52(S)
 - 2003 – 46(H); 55(S)
- Women
 - 1991 – 31 women
 - 2002 – 46 women
 - 2003 – 42 women
- Minority
 - 1991 – 15 minorities
 - 2003 – 17 minorities



Percent Turnover in the Missouri General Assembly, 1981 - 2003

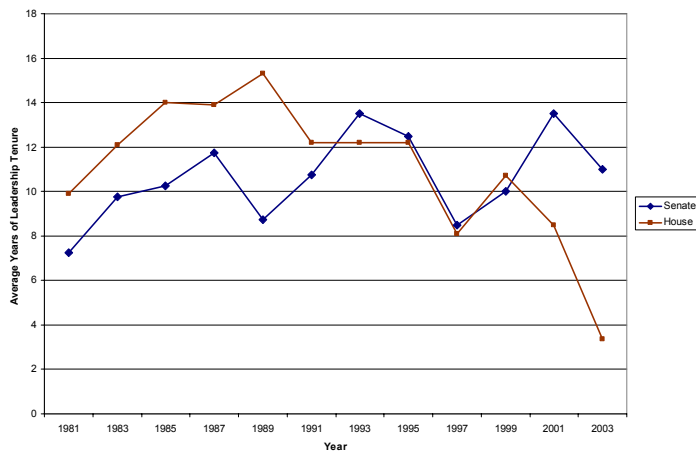


Average Years of Tenure in the Missouri Legislature, 1911 - 2004



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Years of Leadership Tenure in the Missouri House and Senate, 1981 - 2003



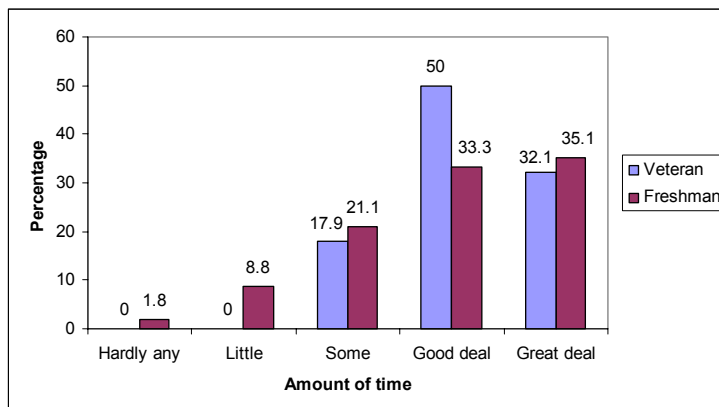
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New Careerism

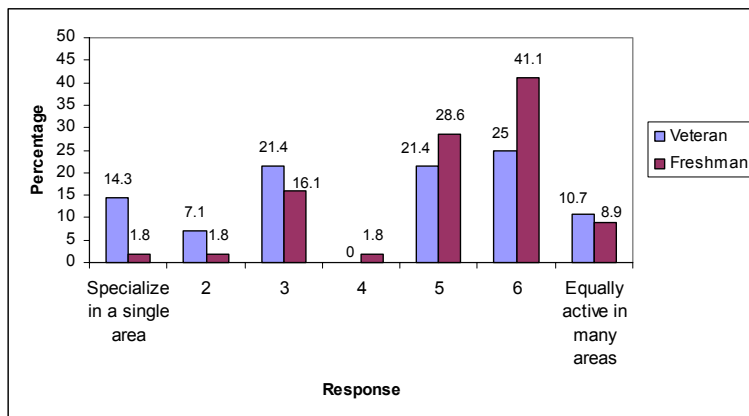
- “. . . there’s more people worried about their careers in the sense of where are they going next, whether it’s to a job in government, or whether it’s to run for the Senate.”
- Speaker Hanaway and statewide office
- Two groups elected
 - The young who don’t seem “too terribly concerned about government and government service.”
 - Retirees or the semi-retired



Amount of Time Spent Studying Proposed Legislation



Levels of Policy Specialization



Sources of Legislator Information

- Partisan staff
 - political policy
 - “. . . one of the more detrimental things that happened is the legislative [partisan] staff has become powerful, probably to the detriment of the overall process. They’ve become less experienced and more powerful.”
- Nonpartisan staff
 - process information
 - “. . . my judgment would be that they may use us more, the new people, than we were utilized before. Although some of the questions are “Where’s the bathroom?” type questions. They’re not high level . . . So they were certainly reliant on us. They definitely turned to us for a lot of things, not probably very much on policy issues. I think their policy is coming from somewhere else.



New Lobbying Strategies

- Candidates
 - “We try to meet them when they are running. We’re not waiting until they win.”
- Elect candidates that represent lobby groups point of view
 - 6 physicians elected in 2002
- Gifts to burgeoning caucuses
 - 53% increase in spending in 2003 compared to 2002
 - Midnight Caucus, Blackjack Caucus



Conclusion

- Minimal impact on descriptive representation
- No stronger interest in policy specialization or studying new legislation
- New careerism
- Lobbyist adaptations
- Current Governor has not gained power but this may change in the future.

- The story of term limits in Missouri is only half over.

