

Term Limits — history and effects

[last revised: December 2008]

On November 3, 1992, Missouri voters approved by a margin of 75 percent an amendment to the state's constitution ([Article III, Section 8](#)) limiting the years a legislator may serve in the General Assembly. Prior to this provision, Missouri had no legislative term limits.

As originally adopted, the amendment limited the service of individuals elected to the General Assembly to a maximum of eight years in the Missouri House of Representatives and eight years in the Missouri Senate. The amendment also excluded from term-limit calculations any legislative service initiated from elections held prior to the original term limits effective date of December 3, 1992.

In 2002, voters amended the term limit provision ([Article III, Section 8](#)) to allow those filling seats vacated after a term's midpoint the opportunity to subsequently run for up to four complete two-year House terms and/or up to two complete four-year Senate terms. Prior to this provision, any partial service counted as a full term, effectively becoming the first of four possible two-year House terms and/or the first of two possible four-year Senate terms.

Lawmakers completing un-expired terms at the time of the partial service provision's 2002 passage must still count their partial service as full terms in term-limit calculations. Senator Victor Callahan was the first Senate member able to exclude partial service from his term limit calculation.

Term limits prohibited four Senate members from running for re-election in 2008.

| District Senator | | First Elected * | Party | Ineligible to run in | Notes |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 1st | Jim Lembke | 2008 | R | 2016 | |
| 2nd | Scott T. Rupp | April 2006 | R | 2014 | 1 |
| 3rd | Kevin Engler | 2004 | R | 2012 | |
| 4th | Jeff Smith | 2006 | D | 2014 | |
| 5th | Robin Wright-Jones | 2008 | D | 2016 | |
| 6th | Carl Vogel | 2002 | R | 2010 | |
| 7th | Jane Cunningham | 2008 | R | 2016 | |
| 8th | Matt Bartle | 2002 | R | 2010 | |
| 9th | Yvonne Wilson | 2004 | D | 2012 | |
| 10th | Jolie Justus | 2006 | D | 2014 | |
| 11th | Victor Callahan | Nov. 2003 | D | 2012 | 2 |
| 12th | Brad Lager | 2006 | R | 2014 | |
| 13th | Tim Green | 2004 | D | 2012 | |
| 14th | Rita Heard Days | 2002 | D | 2010 | |
| 15th | Eric Schmitt | 2008 | R | 2016 | |
| 16th | Frank Barnitz | April 2005 | D | 2014 | 1 |
| 17th | Luann Ridgeway | 2004 | R | 2012 | |
| 18th | Wes Shoemyer | 2006 | D | 2014 | |
| 19th | Kurt U. Schaefer | 2008 | R | 2016 | |
| 20th | Dan Clemens | 2002 | R | 2010 | |
| 21st | Bill Stouffer | 2004 | R | 2012 | |
| 22nd | Ryan McKenna | 2006 | D | 2014 | |
| 23rd | Tom Dempsey | Sept. 2007 | R | 2016 | 3 |
| 24th | Joan Bray | 2002 | D | 2010 | |
| 25th | Rob Mayer | 2004 | R | 2012 | |
| 26th | John Griesheimer | 2002 | R | 2010 | |
| 27th | Jason Crowell | 2004 | R | 2012 | |
| 28th | Delbert Scott | 2002 | R | 2010 | |
| 29th | Jack Goodman | Nov. 2005 | R | 2012 | 4 |
| 30th | Norma Champion | 2002 | R | 2010 | |
| 31st | David Pearce | 2008 | R | 2016 | |
| 32nd | Gary Nodler | 2002 | R | 2010 | |
| 33rd | Chuck Purgason | 2004 | R | 2012 | |
| 34th | Charlie Shields | 2002 | R | 2010 | |

* *Entries with a month denote special elections*

Notes:

- 1) Senator Scott T. Rupp and Senator Frank Barnitz each won special elections to complete vacated terms of less than two years. Each then won elections to full four-year terms in 2006. As they each served less than half of their first vacated terms, they can stand for re-election again in 2010.
- 2) Senator Victor Callahan won a November 2003 special election to complete a vacated term of less than two years. He then won election to a full four-year term in 2004. As Sen. Callahan served less than half of the first vacated term, he could and did successfully run for a second full term in 2008.
- 3) Senator Tom Dempsey won a September 2007 special election to complete a vacated term of less than two years. He then won election to a full four-year term in 2008. As Sen. Dempsey served less than half of the first vacated four-year term, he could run for a second full term in 2012.
- 4) Senator Jack Goodman won a November 2005 special election to fill a vacated term that had more than two years remaining. As Sen. Goodman served more than half of the vacated four-year term, he is only eligible to run once for re-election to the Senate, which he successfully did in 2008.

Missouri Constitution

Article III — Legislative Department

Section 8 — Term limitations for members of General Assembly.

Term limits language as originally adopted November 3, 1992

No one shall be elected or appointed to serve more than eight years total in any one house of the General Assembly nor more than sixteen years total in both houses of the General Assembly. In applying this section, service in the General Assembly resulting from an election or appointment prior to the effective date of this section shall not be counted.

Current term limits language as amended November 5, 2002, to include the partial service provision.

No one shall be elected to serve more than eight years total in any one house of the General Assembly nor more than sixteen years total in both houses of the General Assembly. In applying this section, service in the General Assembly resulting from an election prior to December 3, 1992, or service of less than one year, in the case of a member of the house of representatives, or two years, in the case of a member of the senate, by a person elected after the effective date of this section to complete the term of another person, shall not be counted.

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