

Term Limits — history and effects

(last revised: November 2010)

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	Joe Keaveny	Nov. 2009	D	2018	5
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 a full four-year term 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.
- 5) Senator Joe Keaveny won a November 2009 special election to complete a vacated term of less than two years. He then won election to a full four-year term in 2010. As Sen. Keaveny served less than half of the first vacated four-year term, he could run for a second full term in 2014.

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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