



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 69		DATE: 2/6/2024	
COMMITTEE: Elections and Elected Officials			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BENJAMIN J. TRAVLOS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-893-1400	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI FARM BUREAU		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF STATE LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 701 S. COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: ben.travlos@mofb.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 6:41 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Missouri Farm Bureau has member adopted policy that reads, "We support keeping term limits for state legislators at the maximum combined total of sixteen years, but allowing any combination of years served in the Missouri House and/or Senate up to sixteen years total."



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LINDA REZNY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: lrezny@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 11:54 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Currently House member are just getting enough experience when they are termed out, so the more experience lobbyists have too much power. IF I understand it correctly, this bill would allow a total of 16 in any combination in both houses. It sounds like a good balance for allowing experience, but not making legislator a lifetime job.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2024 10:26 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: WINSTON APPLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: winston.apple@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 10:20 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Aristotle divided governments into six different types on the basis of the number of people sharing power (one, few, or many) and whether, in each case, the government was a “true” form, “in which the one, the few, or the many, govern with a view to the common interest” or “perversions”, where those in power govern “with a view to the private interest”. Governments are composed of individuals, each of whom can be classified on this same basis. Every member of this committee either serves the common interest or private interests. Term limits are not a problem for the private interests who fund the campaigns of politicians who are willing to serve them. They can come up with an endless stream of candidates who will do their bidding in exchange for being given enough money to win elections. Candidates who run for office intending to serve the common interest, and who continue serving the common interest once elected, are harder to come by. They generally have a harder time raising enough money to compete effectively and if they do get elected, they are likely to face well-funded challengers every time they are up for reelection. The need to raise money constantly to remain in office leads to some individuals who entered public service with pure intentions being corrupted by the need to raise money constantly. Term limits are also little more than a nuisance for career politicians who are able, with the help of wealthy benefactors, to get elected to higher offices. When you hit the term limit as a state representative, you run for the state Senate. When you hit the limit for state senators, you run for statewide office, or the U. S. House and then the Senate. Maybe even president. The strongest argument against term limits is that they limit the choices of voters. Voters should individually have the option of deciding when a politician has been in office too long. Whether they have served in one office continually or in a series of offices. And voters should have the option of making exceptions when a career politician has been a good and faithful public servant and has consistently governed with a view to the common interest. I, for one, appreciate anyone who is willing to devote their lives to serving the common interest by running for public office and serving in public office. I support this bill to add flexibility to the term limits in place in Missouri. I support the repeal of term limits. I also believe that the repeal of term limits should be accomplished by the people of Missouri through the initiative process. Which is one more reason I support making the initiative process easier rather than harder.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 11:51 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.
Very opposed. For additional information, please review the House archived video.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTOPHER FOSTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: cmfoster1986@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 1:11 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

If I read this correctly, a state senator in office can serve four terms but no more than 16 years. Meanwhile a state rep can serve 8 terms but no more than 16 years. I have no objection to expanding the term limits so there may be some senior legislators to help guide freshmen legislators. But there should be an allowance for some incomplete terms in case of special elections.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA MCEVOY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: ccarms311@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 11:28 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As a citizen of Missouri, I am opposed to ANY attempt to modify the initiative petition process, which is a wonderful tool for citizens to use when we have no other recourse to make politicians listen to us. If we wanted it changed WE would bring it up and do so. LEAVE THE PROCESS ALONE!



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DON BICKHAUS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: doniibecky@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2024 3:49 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. NO...leave as is.		



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: GAIL GRISWALD		PHONE NUMBER: 573-280-1585	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ARMORVINE LLC		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 226 KADIE COURT			
CITY: LINN CREEK		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65052
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JASMINE CHING		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jching10718@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 10:18 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOSEPH A. JEFFERIES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOSHUA VROMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARLA J MARANTZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mjmarantz@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 1:20 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

CORRECTION:I am opposed to term limits.**Correction to previous submission:**This bill continues to limit our access to experienced leaders even further. Terms limits have been very damaging to our Missouri Legislature. Our vote should be our term limits. I personally highly value the work of our legislative representatives. Our state representatives navigate a complex fabric of social, economic, ethical, environmental, geographic factors, balancing needs throughout the state and budgetary constraints. Research indicates that fair, competitive districts, genuine campaign finance reform, and strong ethical standards are the best ways to assure an elected official truly represents all in their district while balancing the needs of the state. If you are worried about the power of incumbency giving an unfair advantage, increased polarization, and gridlock in the legislature, term limits do not prove to solve these problems. At first glance the power of incumbency is an easy target. After all, name recognition is important to a race. Rather than build a reputation on strong representation, a candidate with the most money backing them will have the advantage. Those who tend to grandstand rather than do the hard work of building support for meaningful legislation have an advantage, especially in the primary in districts where there is little or no opposition. In the general election. Term limits unfortunately do the opposite of what they are purported to do. And, there are unintended consequences. I value the institutional knowledge and relationships that representatives, truly committed to governing, build and offer. I think our election policies should reflect those values. These are not jobs anyone can just pop in and do. As one of my representatives boldly stated when asked about navigating his new office, "I do what the lobbyists tell me to do." Whose lobbyists? This bill continues to limit our access to experienced leaders even further. Terms limits have been very damaging to our Missouri Legislature. Our vote should be our term limits.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARLA J MARANTZ		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: mjmarantz@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 12:46 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am opposed to term limits. I personally highly value the work of our legislative representatives. Our state representatives navigate a complex fabric of social, economic, ethical, environmental, geographic factors, balancing needs throughout the state and budgetary constraints. Research indicates that fair, competitive districts, genuine campaign finance reform, and strong ethical standards are the best ways to assure an elected official truly represents all in their district while balancing the needs of the state. If you are worried about the power of incumbency giving an unfair advantage, increased polarization, and gridlock in the legislature, term limits do not prove to solve these problems. At first glance the power of incumbency is an easy target. After all, name recognition is important to a race. Rather than build a reputation on strong representation, a candidate with the most money backing them will have the advantage. Those who tend to grandstand rather than do the hard work of building support for meaningful legislation have an advantage, especially in the primary in districts where there is little or no opposition. In the general election. Term limits unfortunately do the opposite of what they are purported to do. And, there are unintended consequences. I value the institutional knowledge and relationships that representatives, truly committed to governing, build and offer. I think our election policies should reflect those values. These are not jobs anyone can just pop in and do. This bill limits our access to experienced leaders even further. We have term limits. It is our vote.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RACHEL SPEED		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: rachelghana@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2024 1:45 PM
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I oppose this bill also for the reasons I stated in HJR 57. It limits our ability to participate in the democratic process, and to have our voices heard!



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: RON BERRY		PHONE NUMBER: 660-537-2239
REPRESENTING: JOBS WITH JUSTICE VOTER ACTION		TITLE: REGISTERED LOBBYIST
ADDRESS: PO BOX 722		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: ronalddberr@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 11:00 AM
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Oppose



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH A. SWISHER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: salswisher@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/6/2024 10:37 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Term limits are a bad idea in the first place. Elections allow the populace to decide if someone has served too long. Term limits only increase the power of lobbyists.