



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 149		DATE: 2/17/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BARBARA E LANNING		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/15/2026 7:35 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CAROL A. SCHREIBER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:46 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Elections are the voters chance to enforce term limits. I have always opposed term limits, because I used to work in Jefferson City in the 1980s and the vast amount of institutional knowledge of some legislators was critical for good government. Term limits have made it impossible for legislators to understand the process and become an expert in some area of government. Term limits allowed lobbyists to provide the only institutional knowledge. I also strongly support term limits for the Speaker and President Pro Tem. I remember many leaders that stayed in a position too long ended with ethical and criminal issues.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAROLE WEBSTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/15/2026 4:53 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA MUELLER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 2:49 PM
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I support removing the term limits because when good representatives are forced to leave, their 8 years of experience, growth, and knowledge go with them.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVE WEBSTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 5:38 AM
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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DAVID PAIGE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:40 AM
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I support HJR 149



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JOAN GENTRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 11:57 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I support the removal of term limits for members of the Missouri House of Representatives. The lack of institutional knowledge makes it much easier for lobbyists to present cookie cutter bills to members who then work to get that piece of legislation passed but are not around later to see the repercussions of the bill.

**Thank you.
Joan Gentry**



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JOYCE GORRELL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 12:09 PM
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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JUNE PAIGE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:43 AM
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This is a smart move to keep our general assembling forward and open to new ideas.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KATHY J MARINCEL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:21 AM

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

lections serve as a very effective form of term limits and rigid laws prevent constituents from retaining effective representatives

By relaxing limits, lawmakers can build the institutional knowledge necessary to resist outside influence from unelected lobbyists and bureaucrats



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KAY PARK		PHONE NUMBER: 314-368-1178	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 9888 OLD WARSON RD			
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63124
EMAIL: kayparklwvmo@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 4:24 PM	

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On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Missouri I support HJR 104,122 and 149 to remove term limits for the General Assembly. Term limits prevent constituents from retaining effective representatives. By relaxing the limits, lawmakers can build the institutional knowledge to resist outside influence from unelected lobbyists.

Kay Park, President

League of Women Voters of Missouri



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LAURA BURKHARDT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:54 PM
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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LEA LANGDON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 1:02 PM

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

this resolution extends term limits. Extending the total time they can serve would provide greater continuity, allowing experienced representatives who understand our concerns to advocate for us over a longer period. It would also reduce the frequency of campaign cycles, meaning lawmakers could spend less time fundraising and more time focusing on the issues that matter to their constituents.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MAHREE SKALA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 10:11 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This bill would allow legislators to serve longer in one house of the legislature, which would help them build experience and knowledge of the laws. If they aren't being effective, the voters can vote them out of office



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARSHA LERENBERG		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/15/2026 10:08 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I urge the Elections committee to vote YES on HJR 149 term limits and all term limit bills under consideration today. I believe elections are effective enough for limiting terms. Additionally, by relaxing term limits, our Missouri legislators can build the institutional knowledge necessary to resist outside influence from unelected lobbyists and bureaucrats. Vote YES!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAMELA KAY HOLCUMBRINK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/15/2026 10:53 PM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: PAULINE TESTERMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 12:31 PM
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I believe voters have the right to re-elect members of the General Assembly as often as they wish.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: PRECIOUS JONES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 9:59 AM
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I am in full support of this bill, this bill is a very well needed bill. I feel legislators should be given more time during their terms to get the things done that we the consituents send them up for. I beileve this will be a very good change!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RACHEL WEBB		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/15/2026 6:31 PM	
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Term limits are a well-intentioned action that have not served Missouri well in practice. Elections already serve as term limits, giving residents of a particular district the opportunity to retain their representation or seek new representation. The rigidity of term limits prevents voters in a district from retaining leadership of their choice, especially effective legislators who have developed knowledge and experience. In addition, the rigid term limits create pressure for legislators to "make their marks" in a short period of time, making them susceptible to influence by lobbyists and corporations interests, rather than taking the time to develop legislation that will benefit their constituents and the state of Missouri as a whole. I join the League of Women Voters in supporting this legislation.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RACHELLE GARDNER-ROE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 8:59 AM

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Elections already serve as a very effective form of term limits and the existing term limits prevent constituents from retaining effective representatives.

By relaxing these limits, lawmakers can build the institutional knowledge necessary to resist outside influence from unelected lobbyists and bureaucrats, which so plague our democratic system.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RIVA CAPELLARI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/15/2026 5:28 PM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SANDRA MIKULICH		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 12:35 PM
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**Elections serve as a very effective form of term limits and rigid laws prevent constituents from retaining effective representatives
By relaxing limits, lawmakers can build the institutional knowledge necessary to resist outside influence from unelected lobbyists and bureaucrats**



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHERRY L BUCHANAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 6:05 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: STACY MACHADO		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 4:23 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Elections serve as a very effective form of term limits and rigid laws prevent constituents from retaining effective representatives, lawmakers can build the institutional knowledge necessary to resist outside influence from unelected lobbyists and bureaucrats if this is passed.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/15/2026 5:22 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN WILLIAMS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 10:30 AM
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The current limits prevent constituents from retaining effective representatives. Relaxing limits will allow lawmakers to gain institutional knowledge and resist outside influence from lobbyists and bureaucrats.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: THOMAS MARINCEL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 4:43 PM
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Elections serve as a very effective form of term limits and rigid laws prevent constituents from retaining effective representatives

By relaxing limits, lawmakers can build the institutional knowledge necessary to resist outside influence from unelected lobbyists and bureaucrats



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: WINIFRED COLWILL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 9:30 PM	
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Please vote Yes on HJR 149.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. A.C. "HONEST ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY		TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1535			
CITY: O'FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KATHIE ALLISON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/15/2026 7:10 PM
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- Elections serve as a very effective form of term limits and rigid laws prevent constituents from retaining effective representatives
- By relaxing limits, lawmakers can build the institutional knowledge necessary to resist outside influence from unelected lobbyists and bureaucrats



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/12/2026 1:51 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

A Constitutional Dispatch Regarding HJR 149

It has come to this author’s refined attention that the General Assembly, in its wisdom, has once again presented a proposal to amend Article III concerning legislative term limits and leadership tenure.

HJR 149 proposes:

- A cap of eight years in any one chamber prior to December 5, 2030;
- A cap of sixteen years total in both chambers;
- A transition to a sixteen-year aggregate cap after December 5, 2030; and
- Limitations upon service as Speaker of the House and President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

One must observe — this is structurally identical to prior offerings of the same season.

As a constitutional matter, states retain broad authority to define the qualifications and tenure of their own legislators.¹ Courts have repeatedly upheld legislative term limits under rational basis review where they are prospective and uniformly applied.² HJR 149, on its face, does not violate federal constitutional constraints.

It does not impose punishment.³

It does not single out individuals.⁴

It does not regulate federal office.⁵

Thus, from a federal constitutional vantage point, vulnerability remains low.

However — and this is where the dance becomes interesting — the risk is not in the amendment’s theory. It is in its drafting and duplication.

I. Ballot Clarity Risk

Missouri courts have shown particular vigilance where ballot summaries are alleged to omit material effects of proposed amendments.⁶

The official summary here states:

“Prohibit legislators from serving more than sixteen years total...”

Yet the operative text contains transitional rules and counting provisions that materially affect current

officeholders.

The ballot summary does not describe:

- The pre-2030 chamber-specific caps;
- The treatment of partial terms;
- The counting of service prior to December 5, 2030.

Where summary language materially simplifies transitional impact, litigation risk arises under Chapter 116, RSMo.

Precision is not aesthetic. It is jurisdictional.

II. Structural Harmonization Risk

Article III of the Missouri Constitution traditionally grants each chamber authority to determine its own rules and elect its officers.

The leadership caps imposed by HJR 149 are permissible if embedded in the Constitution itself — but the amendment should clearly reconcile that authority rather than implicitly narrowing it.

Where internal rule-making authority is constitutionally curtailed without explicit harmonization, litigants may attempt to manufacture a separation-of-powers argument. Such claims would likely fail — but they would cost the State to defend.

III. Pattern Observation

The repetition of near-identical resolutions within the same General Assembly session suggests a redundancy strategy rather than a substantive innovation.

From a litigation standpoint, duplicative measures:

- Increase the likelihood of ballot challenge consolidation;
- Create interpretive ambiguity if both advance;
- Complicate legislative history.

When multiple structurally identical proposals move simultaneously, courts scrutinize whether the electorate received clear notice of what is being changed.

This is not a constitutional defect per se — but it is a litigation accelerant.

HJR 149 is unlikely to face successful federal constitutional challenge under prevailing precedent. However, ambiguity in ballot summary language or transitional counting provisions may give rise to pre-election litigation under Chapter 116, RSMo.

The General Assembly is placed on notice that clarity in drafting and consolidation of duplicative measures will reduce foreseeable litigation costs and administrative uncertainty.

Missouri may structure its legislative term limits as it sees fit. The legal concern here is not authority — it is clarity. When constitutional amendments are repeated without refinement, the courts tend to examine the language more closely than the policy.

Footnotes

Gregory v. Ashcroft, 501 U.S. 452, 460–61 (1991).

Bates v. Jones, 131 F.3d 843, 847–48 (9th Cir. 1997) (en banc).

Calder v. Bull, 3 U.S. (3 Dall.) 386, 390 (1798).

Nixon v. Adm’r of Gen. Servs., 433 U.S. 425, 468 (1977).

Cf. U.S. Term Limits, Inc. v. Thornton, 514 U.S. 779 (1995) (limiting state authority over federal qualifications, not state offices).

Brown v. Carnahan, 370 S.W.3d 637, 653–54 (Mo. banc 2012).



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HJR 149		DATE: 2/17/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TRAVIS HEINS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 4:46 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This bill is unnecessary.