
Karl Kurtz

The Experiences of Other States

Materials

The Effects of Term Limits [PowerPoint]

The Effects of Term Limits

Ohio Legislative Service Commission
Continuing Legal Education Conference

Karl Kurtz

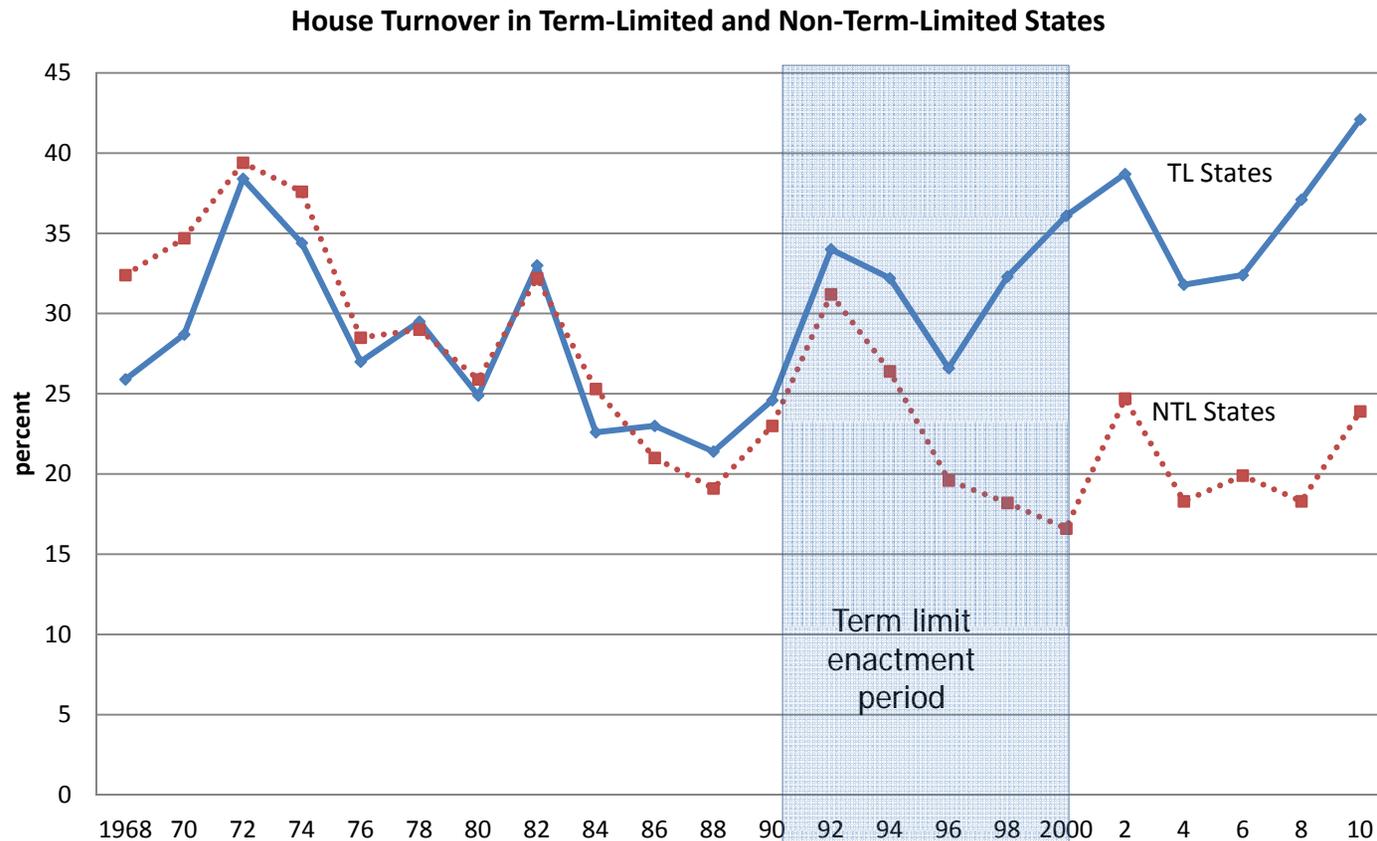
National Conference of State Legislatures



Term Limit Provisions

Limit in Years	Consecutive Limit	Lifetime Limit
6 House/8 Senate		AR, CA, MI
8 Total	NE	
8 House/8 Senate	AZ, CO, FL, ME, MT, OH, SD	MO
12 Total		OK
12 House/12 Senate	LA	NV

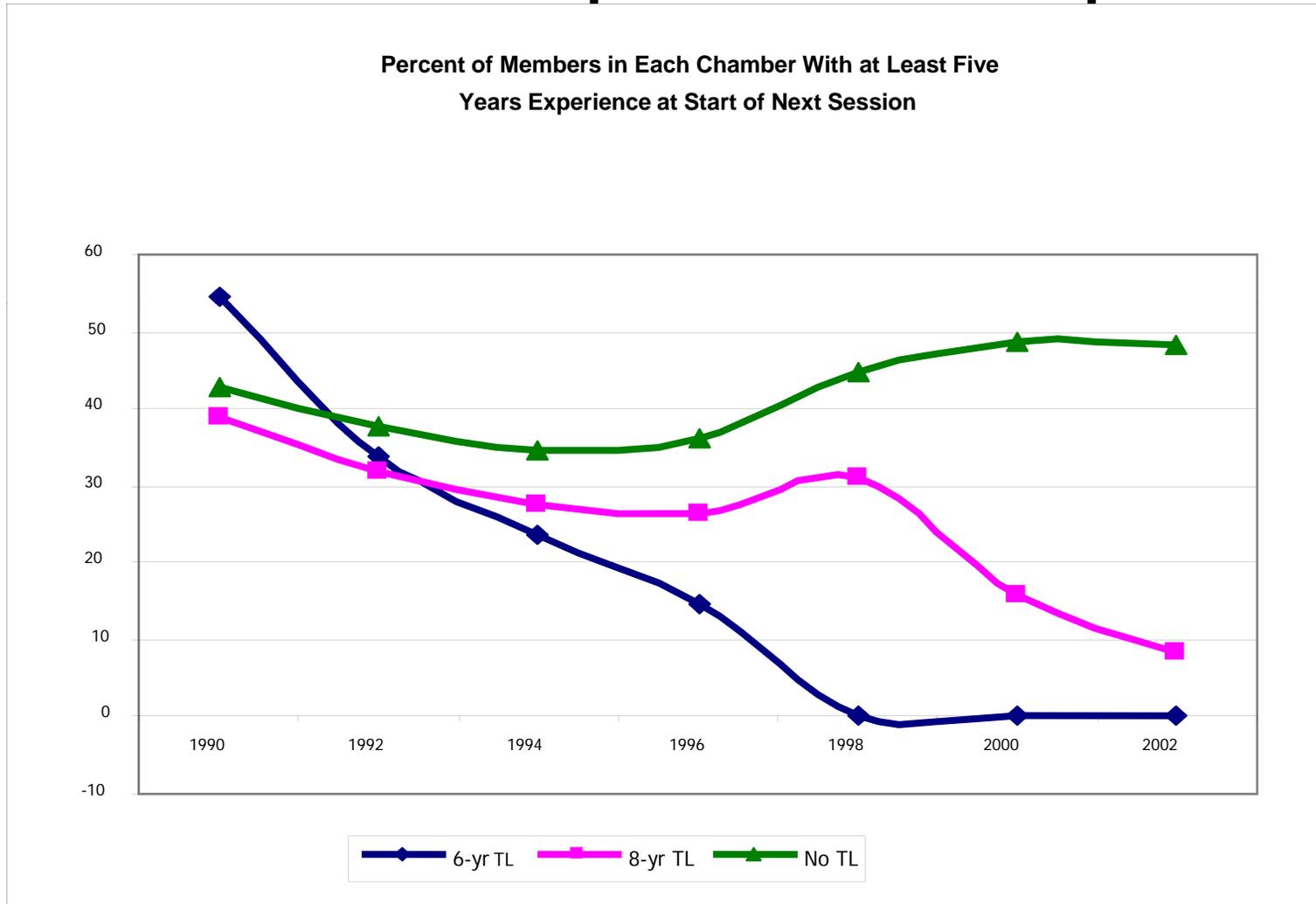
Turnover and Term Limits: Membership Change in Houses



Source: Gary Moncrief, Richard G. Niemi and Lynda W. Powell, "Turnover in State Legislatures: An Update," Western Political Science Association, March 22-25, 2008



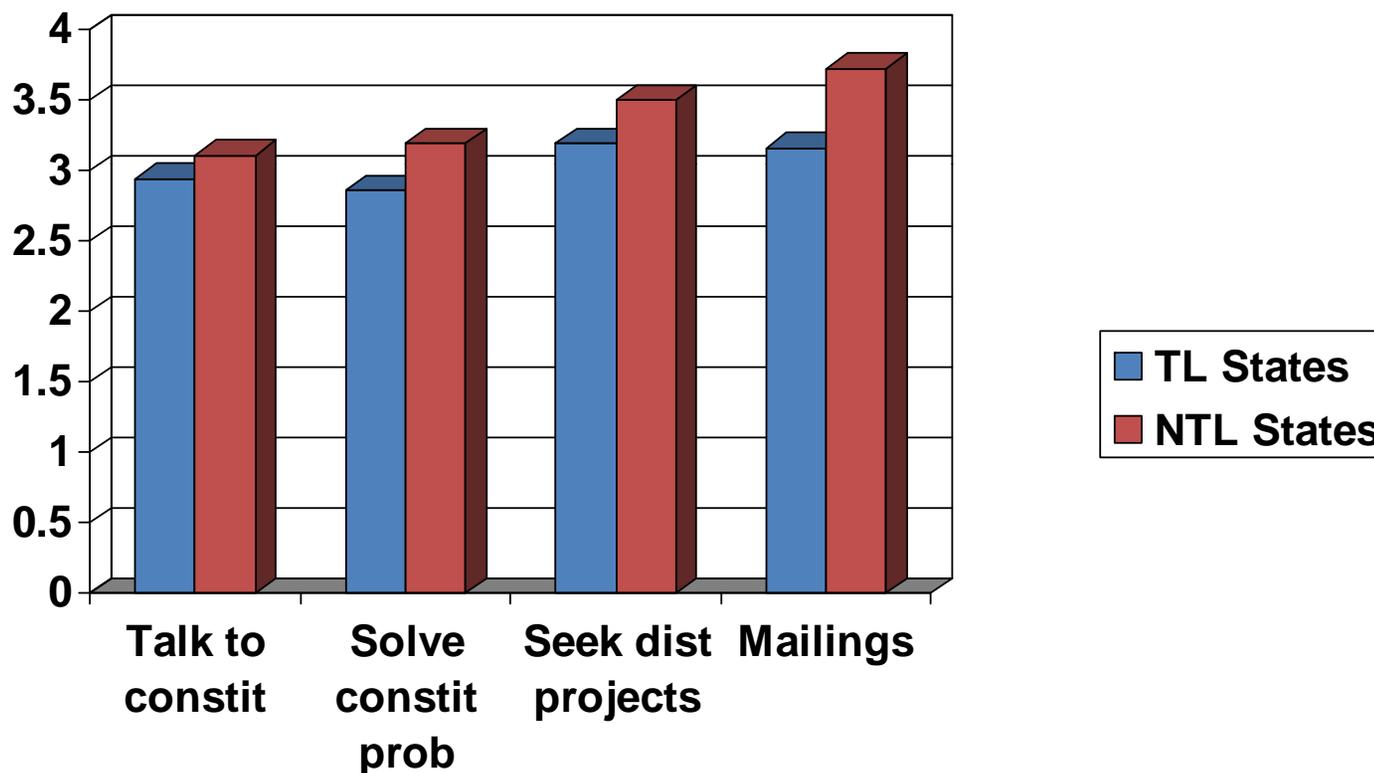
The Experience Gap



Source: Gary Moncrief, Richard G. Niemi and Lynda W. Powell, "Turnover in State Legislatures: An Update," Western Political Science Association, March 22-25, 2008

The “Burkean Shift”

“Legislators today compared to a decade ago...”

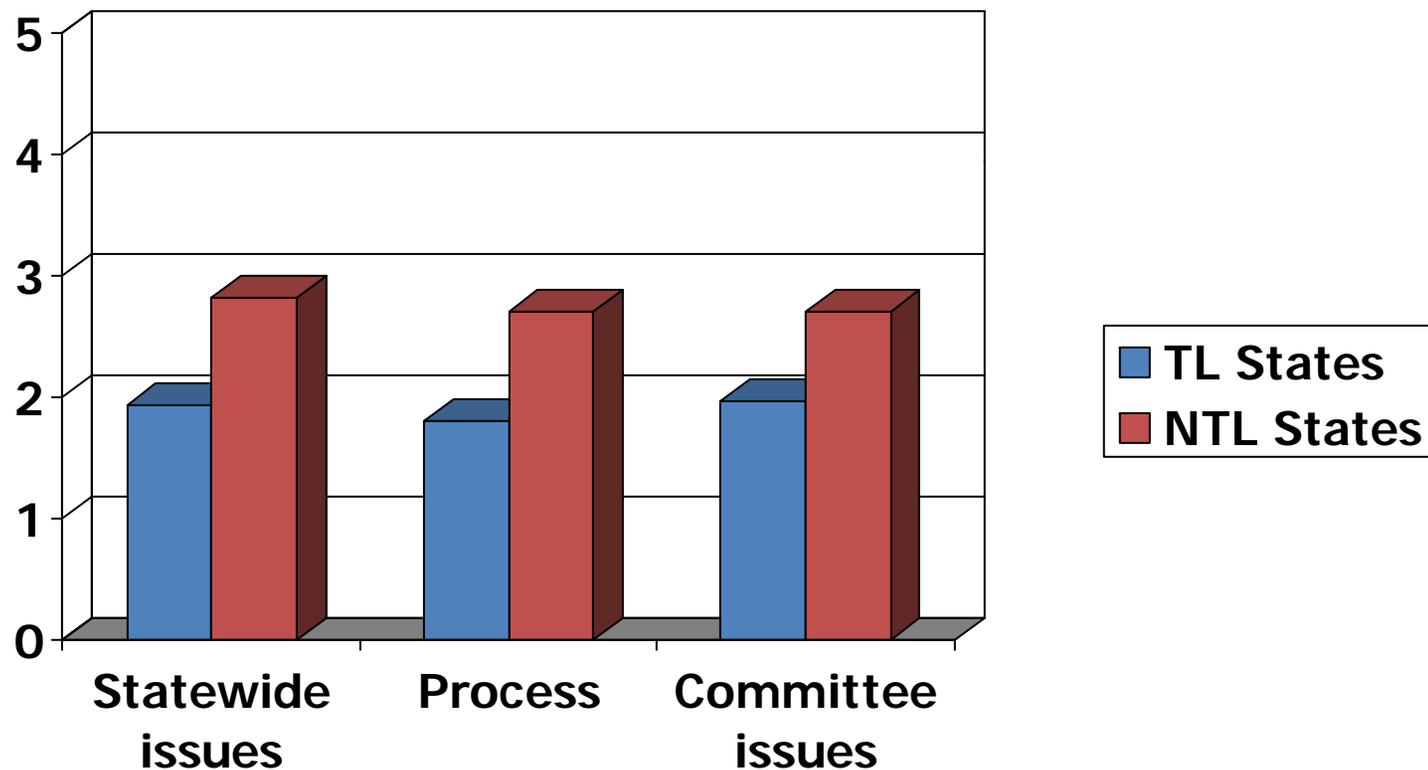


Scale: 1 (Much less time) to 5 (Much more time)



Legislators' Knowledge

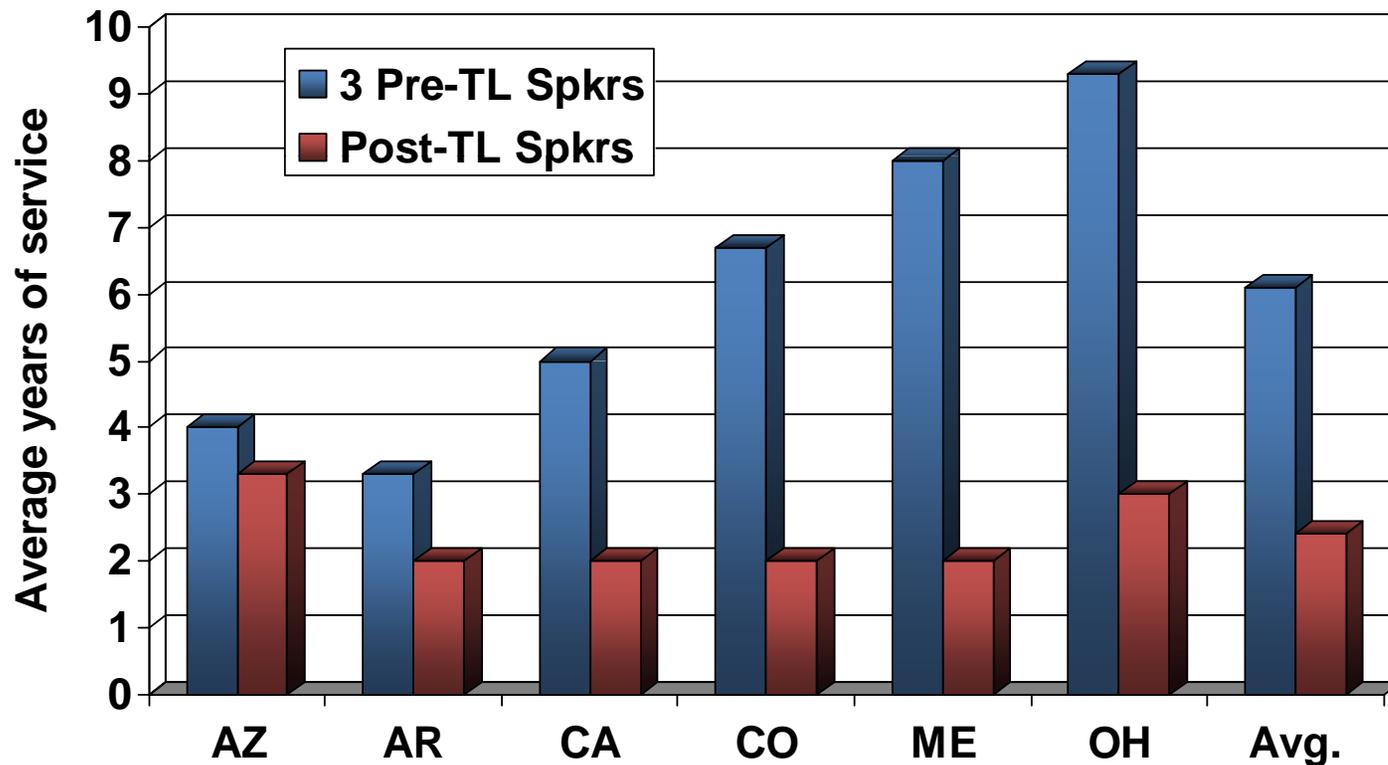
“Legislators today compared to a decade ago...”



Scale: 1 (Much less knowledgeable) to 5 (Much more knowledgeable)



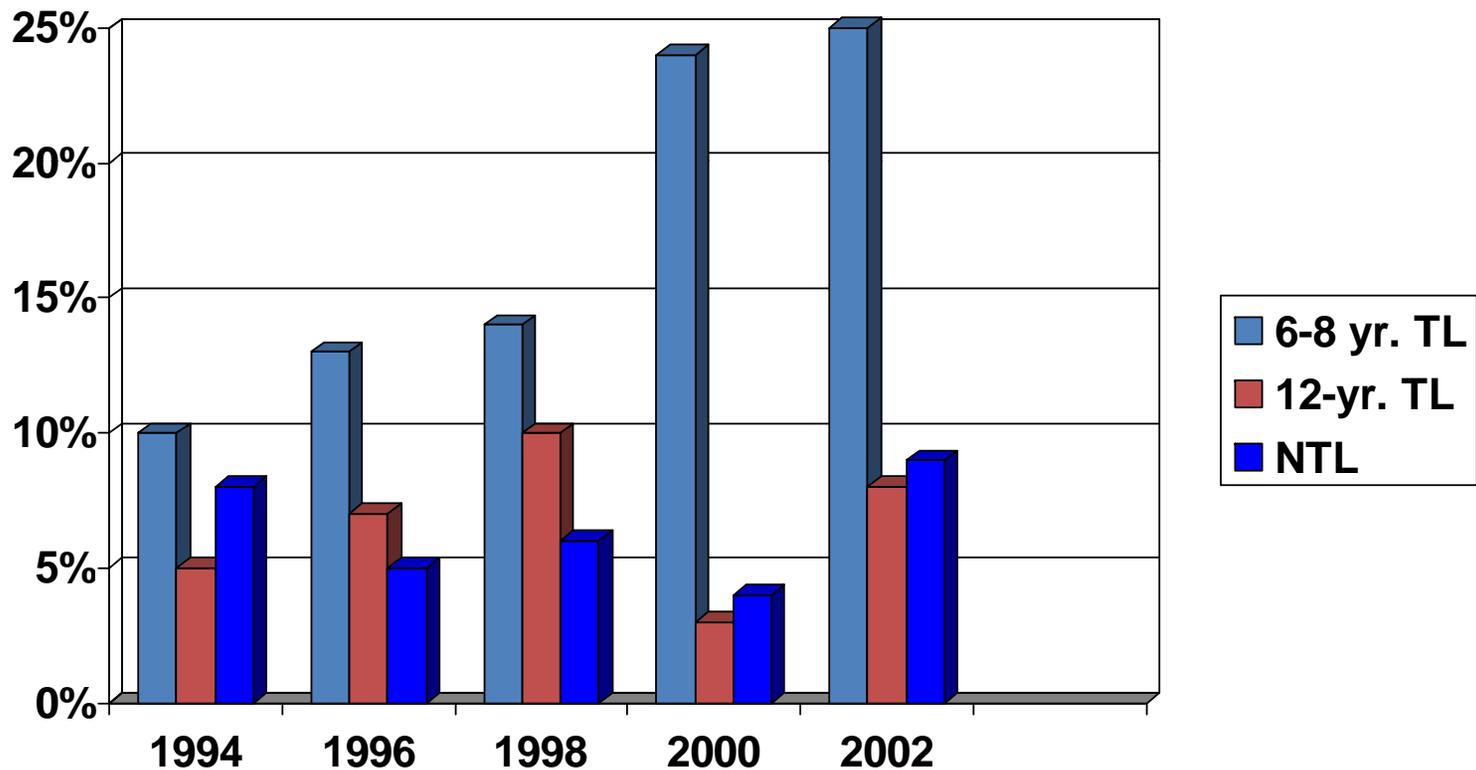
Experience of House Speakers in TL Legislatures



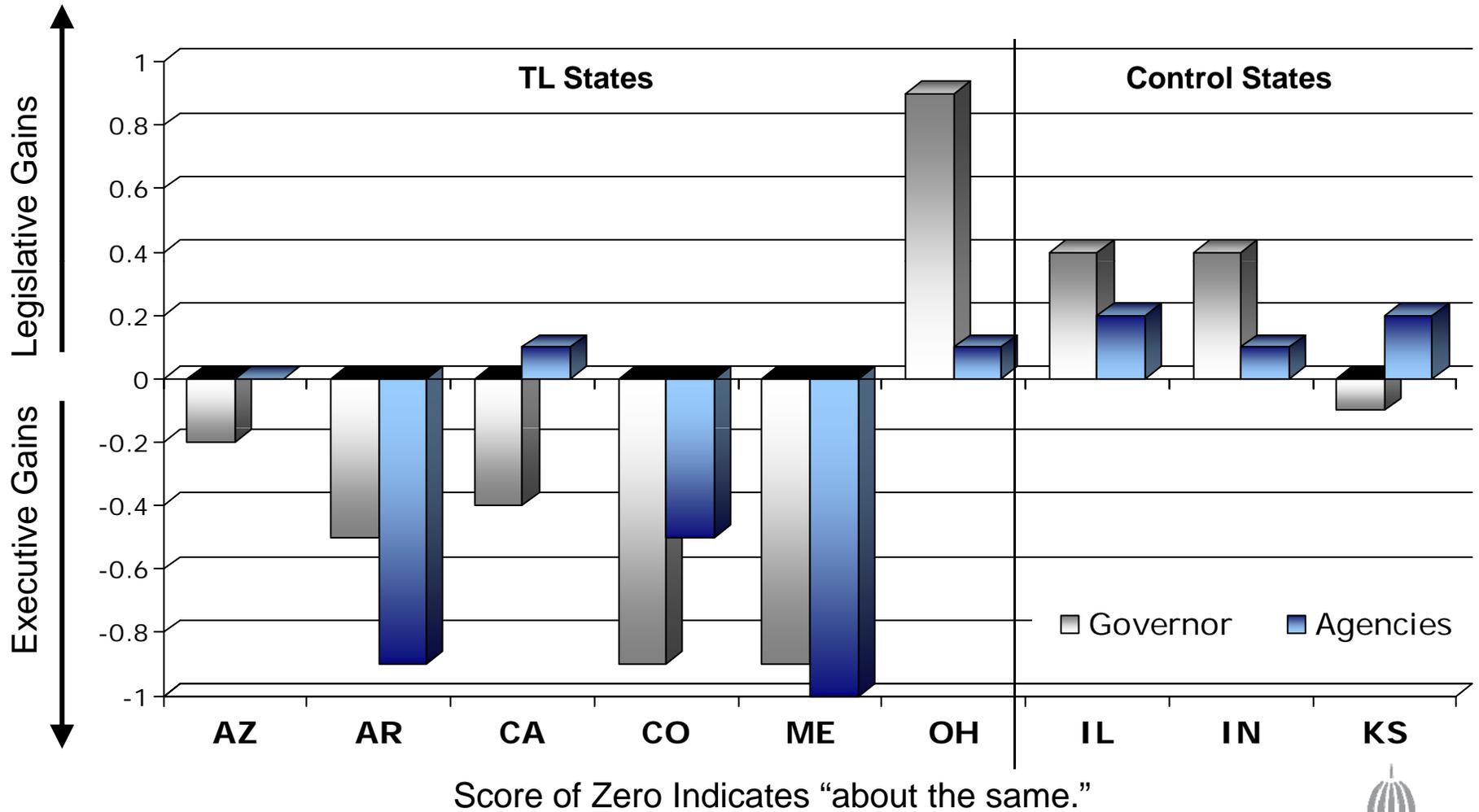
Source: Joint Project on Term Limits



House to Senate Movement



Power Shifts over 10 Yrs.



Source: JPTL Knowledgeable Observer Survey, 2003



Effects of Term Limits

- Vary depending on type of legislature
- Loss of experienced legislators
 - Less knowledge of substantive issues
 - Less institutional knowledge
 - More chaotic legislatures
- No effect on who is elected
- Less attention to constituents
- Senates have more experience
- Governors gained power

Term Limits: Leaders and Committee Chairs

- Less legislative experience
- Less leaders' power over process and members
- Reduced gate keeping role of committees
- Less deference to committee recommendations

Term Limits: Lobbyists and Staff

- Sources of institutional knowledge
- Educational role with new members
- Lobbyists lost relationships
- Nonpartisan staff little to no change
- Turnover in members' staffs
- Partisan staff gained influence

Impact on Lobbyists

- Inexperienced legislators need more info but are mistrustful
- More lobbyists in TL states
- Working harder
- No change in influence but more level playing field
- Ethical implications?