MISSOURI IS THE ONLY STATE WITH

**No limits on lobbyist gifts**

**No campaign contribution limits**

**No laws governing when a legislator can become a lobbyist**

BY ALEX STUCKEY
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

JEFFERSON CITY • Republicans and Democrats agree the scandal that led to two legislative resignations this year cast a shadow over state lawmakers and their work in Jefferson City. They also agree ethics reform would help lift that stigma in 2016.

“I think the voters … are supportive of ethics reform, “ said Rep. Tracy McCreery, D-St. Louis. “I just think there are regular occurrences of things that look improper, and it’s up to us in the Legislature to listen to what voters want to do.”

In May, House Speaker John Diehl, a Republican, resigned because of sexually charged messages he exchanged with a 19-year-old intern from Missouri Southern State University. A few months later, Sen. Paul LeVota, a Democrat, resigned amid sexual harassment allegations from multiple former interns.

While the intern situation is not directly related to traditional ethics reform, McCreery said it “shined a light on the goings-on in Jefferson City.”

Missouri’s ethics laws fall short in three specific areas: limits on lobbyist gifts, laws governing when a legislator can become a lobbyist and campaign contribution limits.

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