

Our founding fathers saw the wisdom in limiting the President from becoming another King with term limits in the Constitution. They never again wanted so much power to be concentrated with one or so few people. By spreading the balance of power among many, people received better representation with less tyranny and corruption from its government. Today, we find three kings controlling our NYS government; the governor and majority leaders of the legislature. The rank and file legislators have an unspoken understanding that says they will, for the most part, allow the three kings to rule and govern as long as they get their lulus and member items for their district. They can then proclaim how they are serving and looking out for the needs of the district while creating a dependency amongst the populous entrenching one's career in Albany.

This flawed process can be corrected simply by instituting term limits and a prohibition of member items. With term limits, legislators will be more apt to act like honorable statesmen with the desire to accomplish something while there that will benefit the district and NYS for years well beyond their days in office. Term limits will minimize the temptation and likelihood of corruption tempering the vices of man. Eliminating the member items will contribute to more ethical and responsible behavior also. Term limits and the elimination of life time benefits after service would help weed out the self serving individuals looking for a free ride. Term limits will limit the influence of lobbyist who desire career politicians having sunk their claws into the minds, souls and bank accounts of those who are willing to compromise their honor and public trust to perpetuate their career in Albany.

Those climbing the ladder within the party or the career politician are the least likely candidates who are serious and passionate enough to desire changing the process, priorities and accountability in Albany. My career is my family business, not 10 or 20 years in Albany. Give me six to see what I can fix.

Shawn Skeele
NYS 111th Assembly Candidate