

# PREPARING FOR TERM LIMITS

## GOAL NO. I – INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE

**Goal objective:** To develop and share the knowledge base of the La. House of Representatives.

**Stated need:** Study the development and sharing of the knowledge base on which to run the House of Representatives. This is a critical need/goal because the longer the on-the-job training lasts for the new leadership team, the more power will in other bodies and branches of government. A leadership team that is fully knowledgeable on the mundane details of the structure, operation, and management of the House of Representatives will be poised to concentrate on establishing the House's place in our government's power structure.

**Proposed committee activity towards achieving goal:**

- Briefing on How Term Limits have affected other states (NCSL study) (addressed on 9/6/2006)
- Discuss possible effects on LA House, both current and long-term (addressed on 9/6/2006)
- Overview of House of Representatives, how it is organized, managed, controlled, and how it functions (addressed on 9/6/2006)
- Discuss alternatives available on issues of organization, management, control, and functions (addressed on 9/6/2006) [*See, Goal IV, generally*]

## GOAL NO. II – LEGISLATIVE INDEPENDENCE

**Goal objective:** To re-create the House of Representatives as a **more** independent partner in the legislature and with the Governor.

**Stated need:** To successfully move to independence and full partnership we must have a clear vision of what we mean when we say “independent legislature.” Further, we must gain a complete understanding of the *why’s* and *how’s* of the Governor’s control of the legislature. We will identify these *why’s* and *how’s*; investigate the relationship between the Governor and legislature in other states; identify what are the *best practices* from these other states; and agree upon changes to be made to the procedures and practices which will develop independence from the Governor and full partnership with the Senate.

**Proposed committee activity towards achieving goal:**

- Define what “independence” means, what do we want it to be, how do we achieve it, how do we preserve it.
- Overview of *why* LA House is not independent & effects of dependence.
- Examples from other states that are independent & reasons why they are and remain independent.
- How does term-limits affect independence (discussed on 9/6/2006 and 11/14/2006)
- How can independence be achieved
- What can be done short-term, long-term
- Relations with the Senate

## **GOAL NO. III –PARTISANSHIP**

**Goal objective:** To establish the foundation for a House of Representatives with an accepted, planned partisan organization and culture.

**Stated need:** We have witnessed the birth of member partisanship in the Louisiana legislature. Our choices are: 1) remain passive participants and allow partisanship to grow without direction; or 2) be good stewards of the institution and nurture the healthy, positive aspects of partisanship. Cooperative, institutionally-supportive partisanship is very possible. We will categorize the best and the worst and the not-so-good partisan practices and procedures from other states; decide upon best practices to apply in the House of Representatives, and agree upon practices and procedures to insure a planned transition to a partisan organized and managed House of Representatives.

**Proposed committee activity towards achieving goal:**

- How will term limits affect partisanship growth? (discussed briefly on 11/14/2006)
- History of LA House partisanship
- What direction can partisanship take
- Examples of partisanship structures from other states, both positive and negative
- How to create the positive path and proper balance in the Louisiana House

## **GOAL NO. IV – IMPROVING THE INSTITUTION**

**Goal objective:** To investigate how to improve the institution that is the Louisiana House of Representatives.

**Stated need:** Many practices and procedures of the House produce an effective and transparent legislature; however, some practices, procedures, and behavior patterns are counter-productive to a strong and respected legislature. We will identify the *best* and the *worst* and the *not-so-good* from current practices, procedures, and behavior; investigate the best practices from other states; and agree upon changes to be made to practices, procedures, and behavior which will improve the strength, effectiveness, and respect for the House of Representatives.

**Proposed committee activity towards achieving goal:**

- Identify what is good about the institution, what is ‘not-so-good’ & what is neutral
- What effect will term limits have on the standing of the institution (discussed on 9/6/2006 and 11/14/2006)
- Identify the Best Practices from around the country
- Identify the changes to be made

## **ADDENDUM – TRANSITIONING INTO NEW TERM**

- Agree upon changes to: rules, procedures, practices, organization, functions, & management
- Coordinate discussing and informing colleagues, both old and new, of potential changes to garner support for the new term and beyond
- Establish a time-line to effect changes to be made