

From: [Sue Lang](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Ordinance No. 2024-08 Charter Amendment On Term Limits
Date: Thursday, May 23, 2024 1:39:28 PM

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

This Ordinance is flawed and untenable because 5 of the current Council Members cannot/should not vote on this item per the Florida Code of Ethics adopted into the City Code of Ordinances (Sec. 2-171) as this would be a violation of Florida Statutes Ch. 112, pt. III Sec. 112.3143 Voting Conflicts:

(d) "Special private gain or loss" means an economic benefit or harm that would inure to the officer,..."

Furthermore SECTION 5. Form of Ballot QUESTION 1. ELECTION DATE, TERMS OF OFFICE AND TERM LIMITS is flawed because it does not include the intent to give 5 Council Members/Seats an extra year as a method of transitioning to the proposed 4 year terms with elections taking place only on even numbered years.

Please remove this item from consideration until such time as these flaws can be corrected.

Thank you

City Council Agenda May 28, 2024 Ordinance No. 2024-08 Charter Amendment on Term Limits

- Seat 3: Term beginning in 2024 expires in 2027; Incumbent's term is extended 1 year to 2028. Incumbent and/or Challenger runs for 4-Year Term in Group 2.
- Seat 4: Term beginning in 2024 expires in 2027; Incumbent's term is extended 1 year to 2028. Incumbent and/or Challenger runs for 4-Year Term in Group 2.
- Seat 5: Current term expires in 2025; Incumbent's term is extended 1 year to 2026. Incumbent and/or Challenger runs for 4-Year Term in Group 1.
- Seat 6: Current term expires in 2025; Incumbent's term is extended 1 year to 2026. Incumbent and/or Challenger runs for single 2-Year Term to 2028 to allow for transition to even year elections and maintain staggered four-year terms. Then

Incumbent and/or Challenger runs for 4-Year Term in Group 2.

- Seat 7 (Mayor): Current term expires in 2025; Incumbent's term is extended 1 year to 2026. Incumbent and/or Challenger runs for single 2-Year Term to 2028 to allow for transition to even year elections and maintain staggered four-year terms. Then Incumbent and/or Challenger runs for 4-Year Term alongside Group 2.

Venice Florida Code of Ordinances

ARTICLE III. – OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

- DIVISION 2. - CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS[5]

Sec. 2-170. - Purpose.

It is the policy of the city to uphold, promote, and demand the highest standards of ethics from all of its employees, officials, contractors, volunteers and others who participate in the city's governance. These individuals shall maintain the highest standards of personal integrity, truthfulness, honesty, and fairness in carrying out their public duties, avoid any improprieties in their roles as public servants including the appearance of impropriety, and never use their city position or powers for improper personal gain.

(Ord. No. [2020-10](#), § 2, 3-31-20)

- **Sec. 2-171. - Adoption of Florida Code of Ethics.**

The city adopts the Florida Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees found in F.S. ch. 112, pt. III, as it may be amended from time to time, as the city's code of conduct and ethics.

(Ord. No. [2020-10](#), § 2, 3-31-20)

Section 112.3143 - Voting conflicts

(b) "Public officer" includes any person elected or appointed to hold office in any agency, including any person serving on an advisory body.

(d) "Special private gain or loss" means an economic benefit or harm that would inure to the officer, his or her relative, business associate, or principal, unless the measure affects a class that includes the officer, his or her relative, business associate, or principal, in which case, at least the following factors must be considered when determining whether a special private gain or loss exists:**1.** The size of the class affected by the vote.**2.** The nature of the interests

involved.**3.** The degree to which the interests of all members of the class are affected by the vote.**4.** The degree to which the officer, his or her relative, business associate, or principal receives a greater benefit or harm when compared to other members of the class.

The degree to which there is uncertainty at the time of the vote as to whether there would be any economic benefit or harm to the public officer, his or her relative, business associate, or principal and, if so, the nature or degree of the economic benefit or harm must also be considered.

(3)(a) No county, municipal, or other local public officer shall vote in an official capacity upon any measure which would inure to his or her special private gain or loss; which he or she knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of any principal by whom he or she is retained or to the parent organization or subsidiary of a corporate principal by which he or she is retained, other than an agency as defined in s. 112.312(2); or which he or she knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of a relative or business associate of the public officer. Such public officer shall, prior to the vote being taken, publicly state to the assembly the nature of the officer's interest in the matter from which he or she is abstaining from voting and, within 15 days after the vote occurs, disclose the nature of his or her interest as a public record in a memorandum filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who shall incorporate the memorandum in the minutes.**(b)** However, a commissioner of a community redevelopment agency created or designated pursuant to s. 163.356 or s. 163.357, or an officer of an independent special tax district elected on a one-acre, one-vote basis, is not prohibited from voting, when voting in said capacity.

s. 6, ch. 75-208; s. 2, ch. 84-318; s. 1, ch. 84-357; s. 2, ch. 86-148; s. 5, ch. 91-85; s.3, ch. 94-277; s.1408, ch. 95-147; s.43, ch. 99-2; s.6, ch. 2013-36.Amended by 2013 Fla. Laws, ch. 36, s 6, eff. 5/1/2013.

From: [Peggy Pisani](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Voting
Date: Thursday, May 23, 2024 1:40:43 PM

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I am writing to strongly oppose the plan to changes in the election term by the City Council. These terms have been in place for 98 years. If it IS NOT BROKEN WHY FIX IT?

The City Council just keeps giving free rides to developers, I.e. Neal. I live in Milano and a lot of promises were rescinded from us by him. The City Council just keeps saying yes to he and other developers. There is not much land left in North Venice. No place for parks and the beautiful life we all chose when we decided to move here.

And now the terms will affect the only two votes that seem to be protecting North Venice. The Other members are getting a pass for a year.

Just makes no sense to me. Are you all getting together and saying ok where can we build more houses in No. Venice? There is no more room.

This is just how it seems to me, a tax payer in Venice, Fl.

Margaret Pisani
311 Carlino Drive
No. Venice, Fl. 34275
Sent from Gmail Mobile

From: [Dennis Sica](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Voter change
Date: Thursday, May 23, 2024 8:57:31 PM

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I'm asking you not to change the voting cycle in Venice. It's unique to our city and gives residents more control over elections.

Dennis Sica
137 Bella Vista Ter Unit D
Venice 34275

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From: [Suzanne Herbst](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Vote to eliminate Annual Elections
Date: Saturday, May 25, 2024 4:46:19 PM

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Council Members,

Please vote no on changing the election rules. **Lengthening the terms** from three years to four and holding elections only every other year does not serve your constituents. There are many upcoming issues facing this area and the residents of Venice should have their voices heard annually and have the ability to oppose sitting members who have the developers and their money influencing their decisions. Thank you for your consideration.

Suzanne Herbst-Ecker
194 Bella Vista Terrace, Unit C
2155-519-6066

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

From: [Kristin Hoffschmidt](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Don't change City Council terms and elections
Date: Saturday, May 25, 2024 10:31:29 AM

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Dear Venice City Council,

I am writing to oppose the proposal to change City Council term lengths from three to four years and to change City Council elections from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years.

Changing the City's Charter and 100-year tradition of stand-alone elections for City Council is not good for the City of Venice, especially in today's hyper-partisan climate. City Council members are supposed to be non-partisan and independently represent the best interests of Venice residents, instead of simply echoing narrow state and national party ideologies.

It does not make sense to eliminate elections at a time when access to voting and voting rights are being systematically stripped away. True democracy thrives when governments invest in robust elections and voter participation, not short-sighted budget cuts.

I encourage you to vote against this proposal. I cannot speak about this in person at the City Council meeting on 5/28/24 due to my employment but hope that you listen to my voice through this letter and to the chorus of opposition from other residents.

Sincerely,

Kristin Hoffschmidt
232 Gulf Dr. Venice

From: [Elana Carnes](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Say NO to Election Cycle Amendment
Date: Monday, May 27, 2024 9:17:32 AM

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Dear Council Members:

I am writing to you to express my opposition to the proposed Election Cycle Amendment. I am against it for the following reasons:

If passed, it would mean:

- Voters would lose the ability to put fresh faces on City Council every year.
- It would make campaigns more expensive as candidates have to spend more to get their message out in years when there are more regional and national races on the ballot. (This in turn could make candidates more dependent on deep-pocketed campaign contributors.)
- There would be a strong potential for straight party line voting.

Also, I am concerned that the City Council has chosen not to involve their Charter Review Committee, which exists to recommend city charter amendments.

And this amendment would give three members of Council **an extra year in office without having to face re-election** in 2025: Mayor Nick Pachota and Council members Rachel Frank and Rick Howard.

Please vote "No" on this amendment. Remember the adage, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." If it does appear on the November ballot, I will vote "NO".

Thank you for your consideration.

Elana Carnes
201 Medici Terrace
N. Venice, FL 34275

From: [Jo Marie Cook](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Oppose change to dates of Venice City elections
Date: Monday, May 27, 2024 2:56:15 PM

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Dear City Council,

I oppose the proposed changes to the dates of Venice City elections because they extend the terms of existing council members by one year.

These members were not elected to 3 year terms.

While I do not oppose changing the dates of Venice City elections, it must be done in a way that does not extend the terms of existing council members unless approved by vote for each specific council member by the citizens of Venice.

Jo Marie Cook
jomarie.cook@outlook.com
850-445-4163

301 Circle Dr.
Venice, FL 34285

From: [Suzanne Holway Jerry](#)
To: [City Council](#); [Jim Boldt](#); [Nicholas Pachota](#); [Joan Farrell](#); [Rick Howard](#); [Ronald Smith](#); [Rachel Frank](#); [Helen Moore](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Term Limits Election Cycle May 28th Agenda
Date: Monday, May 27, 2024 11:47:58 PM

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May 28 th Agenda Item Concern.

Timing is everything ! Items that are at the heart of public contention appear to become the focus of decisions during times that target the absence of dissenters . Just something we have noticed happening in Venice . It is too late to extend terms for councilors and you are also creating a necessary expense considering this which causes citizens to really question the justifications being shared as preposterous !

The big question is who is directing the City of Venice and the council to change and extend the existing council term limits of a few seated councilors whose term is due to end . This is a self serving tactic obviously intended to provide outside interested Greedy entities with the guaranteed upper hand given locally focused have created a problem recently for developers that unsuccessfully targeted enormous funds on developer candidates that lost the election last November . This is not a well regulated chess game since the money influencers want to be provided with more time than permitted on their candidates clocks , and they desire far more cheater beater time , they apparently don't want citizens to have the opportunity to solely focus on Venice City issues but they want to dilute the process and hope voters vote party lines , and choose the money influencer selected mega funded candidates that receive hundreds of thousands of direct the GOP to endorsements with the floods of mailers positive and glowing for their candidate and trashing & flooding residents with negative untruths about the opposition ...the last race proved out this insane spending reality where by the developer influencers are clearly trying to create a back access trap door access to all staff and policies that favor their personal agendas .

What do you call this strategy being considered . BASS AKWARDS DIRTY SWIMDLER DOINGS A FOOT IN VENICE ...

A strategy concocted by developer influencers where the developers want to seemingly decide term limits need to change and their developer candidates need to be given extended terms right now because they don't control Venice council , lost two seats and fear losses this fall unless they change the tiles for term limits and when the elections play out . They want to change all of Venice's ejection ground rules .

This is outrageous a true injustice . They were elected for the term they should serve . We know who crafted this whole idea of the term limits and who is behind this being pushed forward in a referendum ...you know , we know , those who stand to gain the most , again greed developers you know that's true.

This idea serves only one entity the dark money influencers and clearly originated elsewhere , citizens are tired of these shananigans and wise to the why this agenda item has been quickly that because they have like they Have a problem remember everything not at the end of a council board members term but intentionally extending term limits beyond what voters understood during the election cycle .

It is absurd to think you can increase someone's elected term status mid stream and ludicrous to think you are suggesting voters accept doing this at the end of an established term limit , this action reeks of outside dark money Influencers stacking the deck with chosen candidates that will pledge allegiances to their developer backers . This is such an underhanded obvious ploy and is being designed by and orchestrated by developers and their political pacts . This is a rash rushed idea and this is political in nature and does not honor Venice its citizens or its future .

This idea has surfaced because of the loss that occurred in November with the outgunned million dollar

expenditure of funds by the GOP Developer controlled entity spent on two candidates was ineffective .

This action if approved reveals just who is tied to that big money , your vote as a councilor is all telling .

Citizens have focused on their City during these cycles and that focus needs to remain on Venice and preserving its charm with the existing continued policy that has been in place serving Venice tax payers nicely . This is designed to benefit outside influencers rather than Venice .

Venice has a rather captivating persona and is truly charming . We need to maintain the laws that govern what has worked . We all know who the true beneficiary is related to this rash ludicrous proposal ! We also know who will campaign for these ejection changes , we know from the past election who will flood the mailboxes and city with propaganda . Dark money will find this advocacy to change the constitution of Venice . The reigns need to stay with council members that truly value Venice laws and its charming character .

Thank you for your consideration and time reading this concern

Mark @ Suzanne Jerry
Voters in Venice
Taxpayers since 2018

my iPhone Suzanne