

**From:** [@gmail.com](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Jan Vertefeulle](#); [Tommye](#); [Patricia Shreeve](#); [Nancy DeForge](#); [Ann Keohan](#); [Ruth Cordner](#); [Debbie Gericke](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)  
**Subject:** FOUR YEAR TERMS FOR ELECTED CITY COUNCIL & MAYOR POSITIONS  
**Date:** Monday, January 22, 2024 2:37:19 PM

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**Dear Mr. Mayor and Venice City Council Members,**

**I have perused the Agenda for the 1/23 Council Meeting. My comments in this note have to do with changing the terms of Council & Mayor positions & merging the Boards.**

**It seems to me that #1, we are limiting the pool of people willing to run if the terms of Office are 4 years. It is extremely important to have the best of the best sitting on our Venice City Council. If new people have the qualifications but are unable to commit to 4 years, we have potentially lost some great candidates. #2 has to do with new ideas. That is one of the perks of 3 year terms. New people every 3 years come with fresh ideas. This is a tremendous motivator for a group who needs to gather every 2 weeks and make major decisions about Venice. The energy level of committing to 4 years rather than 3 will be affected as well. It can easily become a grind, so to speak. #3 is the opportunity is available to more voters. We want active participation from the residents! #4 Feedback from Venice people on merging all the Boards into one. Voters think this is a very small group with big tasks. The decision making can become burdensome as you are hearing the same thing from the same people each time you gather. The Pool of possible candidates is considerably smaller and leaves others without the opportunity. The same is being said about those who have already applied vs. those who were not selected. Have you made your process for selection public?**

**To be clear, I strongly oppose 4 year terms for the Venice City Council and Mayor for the above reasons.**

**Thank you for your time**

**~Judy Cross  
1585 Tarpon Center Drive  
Venice, FL 34285**

**From:** [Edwin Martin](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [citycouncil](#)  
**Cc:** [Board and Council Messages](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Four year elections will separate public and council.  
**Date:** Monday, January 22, 2024 10:42:20 PM

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Edwin Martin <[insidevenice@gmail.com](mailto:insidevenice@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Mon, Jan 22, 2024 at 10:33 PM  
**Subject:** Four year elections will separate public and council.  
**To:** citycouncil <[citycouncil@ci.venice.fl.us](mailto:citycouncil@ci.venice.fl.us)>

The annual elections allow local events to be highlighted in a timely fashion.

For example I appointed Kit McKeon and Jim Bennett to Planning Commission and then for Council (neither was a member of the party I belonged to.) The public was concerned about development and had a chance to bring qualified candidates on board promptly.

Please don't change this successful pattern.

Best wishes,

Ed Martin

**From:** [Patricia Shreeve](mailto:Patricia.Shreeve@gmail.com)  
**To:** [@gmail.com](mailto:@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [City Council](#); [Jan Vertefeuille](#); [Tommye](#); [Nancy DeForge](#); [Ann Keohan](#); [Ruth Cordner](#); [Debbie Gericke](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FOUR YEAR TERMS FOR ELECTED CITY COUNCIL & MAYOR POSITIONS  
**Date:** Monday, January 22, 2024 3:36:23 PM

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Well said, Judy.

On Jan 22, 2024, at 2:37 PM, [@gmail.com](mailto:@gmail.com) <[judycross7@verizon.net](mailto:judycross7@verizon.net)> wrote:

**Dear Mr. Mayor and Venice City Council Members,**

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**It seems to me that #1, we are limiting the pool of people willing to run if the terms of Office are 4 years. It is extremely important to have the best of the best sitting on our Venice City Council. If new people have the qualifications but are unable to commit to 4 years, we have potentially lost some great candidates. #2 has to do with new ideas. That is one of the perks of 3 year terms. New people every 3 years come with fresh ideas. This is a tremendous motivator for a group who needs to gather every 2 weeks and make major decisions about Venice. The energy level of committing to 4 years rather than 3 will be affected as well. It can easily become a grind, so to speak. #3 is the opportunity is available to more voters. We want active participation from the residents! #4 Feedback from Venice people on merging all the Boards into one. Voters think this is a very small group with big tasks. The decision making can become burdensome as you are hearing the same thing from the same people each time you gather. The Pool of possible candidates is considerably smaller and leaves others without the opportunity. The same is being said about those who have already applied vs. those who were not selected. Have you made your process for selection public?**

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**Council and Mayor for the above reasons.**

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**~Judy Cross  
1585 Tarpon Center Drive  
Venice, FL 34285**