

From: [M. Curtis Whittaker](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Election ordinance
Date: Saturday, June 8, 2024 11:40:14 AM

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Dear City Council: one last request for you to work with the City to systematically examine the issue of local election structure in depth, and allow citizens to feel that they have had input on developing any options selected and a chance to debate pros and cons concerning their own elections BEFORE voting on any changes.

Many of us would much prefer to work with you to give this issue the robust examination it deserves ahead of taking something to voters, rather than be forced into dissecting your Option 3. If you move ahead with that Option 3 now, you will invite questions like “Why did they pick that weird option – what are they up to?” When people come up with their own answers (and the criticisms start to feel personal), you must blame only yourselves and the wafer-thin record you developed on this.

This isn't an ordinance about sidewalks. This is an ordinance directed at the heart of representative government. It truly demands a different process from this Council.

Curt Whittaker

From: [Linda](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Elections
Date: Sunday, June 9, 2024 7:05:28 PM

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Dear Council Members,

I extend my gratitude for your commitment and dedication to serving Venice. Thank you.

I fully endorse your decision to allow Venice citizens to have a say in our voting process. A robust voter turnout is essential for a healthy democratic process, especially considering the low 35% turnout in off-year elections, which poses a significant challenge for the city.

I strongly urge you to maintain this issue on November's ballot and empower the voters to make the final decision. Let the voters decide.

Additionally, I value Ron Turner's remarks regarding the shift away from odd-year elections, potentially resulting in substantial taxpayer savings. I recognize the importance of every dollar saved, particularly when considering amounts ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000, equivalent to the salary of a firefighter or police officer.

I advocate for letting the voters have a voice on this long-debated issue.

Gary and Linda Weber
Dawn Street
Venice, FL 34285
Sent from my iPad

From: [Diana](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Elections
Date: Sunday, June 9, 2024 5:37:38 PM

[You don't often get email from wattersdiana@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Voting for nonpartisan city council members represents the voice of the people. It is imperative then to have these votes separate from partisan votes. This system has worked for so many years, it doesn't need to be fixed. It is our city, we are the tax payers and we want 3, 3 year terms voted yearly. Thank you. Diana Watters
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Janet Engelke](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Even VS. Even/Odd Election Years
Date: Friday, June 7, 2024 11:56:30 AM

You don't often get email from janet.engelke@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Council Members,

I extend my gratitude for your commitment and dedication to serving Venice. Thank you.

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I advocate for letting the voters have a voice on this long-debated issue.

--

Janet Engelke
609-658-2640
701 Venice Ave, # 107
Venice, FL 34285

From: [Reinette Murray](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Extended terms
Date: Friday, June 7, 2024 12:33:39 PM

You don't often get email from lucy49757@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Please do NOT extend your current election terms. Some changes and views need to be heard.

--

Reinette P. Murray
Email: lucy49757@gmail.com



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [Dave Blake](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: I Support the Election Calendar Change
Date: Saturday, June 8, 2024 6:06:07 PM

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I advocate for letting the voters have a voice on this long-debated issue.

David Blake
Venice, FL 34285

From: [Rose Canepa](#)
To: [City Council](#); [Helen Moore](#); [Rick Howard](#); [Rachel Frank](#); [Joan Farrell](#); [Jim Boldt](#); [Nicholas Pachota](#); [Ronald Smith](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: June 11 Meeting Regarding Term Extension
Date: Sunday, June 9, 2024 5:06:00 PM

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Dear Mayor and City Council members,

I oppose your decision to extend your election terms and add to a referendum regarding this matter to our November 2024 ballot.

After attending the last meeting and listening to all the comments, it is quite clear that we do not want a change City Council members terms.

Please vote **against** this decision on Tuesday June 11th.

Thank you.

Rose Canepa

From: [Charlotte Melcher](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: June 11th Meeting
Date: Friday, June 7, 2024 10:24:55 AM

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Dear Council Members,

I extend my gratitude for your commitment and dedication to serving Venice. Thank you.

I fully endorse your decision to allow Venice citizens to have a say in our voting process. A robust voter turnout is essential for a healthy democratic process, especially considering the low 35% turnout in off-year elections, which poses a significant challenge for the city.

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I advocate for letting the voters have a voice on this long-debated issue.

Charlotte Melcher
326 Pedro St.
Venice, FL 34285

From: [James Perry](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Ord 2024-08 Term Lengths
Date: Sunday, June 9, 2024 12:51:51 PM

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The City Council's proposal to lengthen its own terms to four years and to elect four members in Presidential election years has the effect of restricting the ability of Venice citizens to replace a majority of their 7 member Council to **only once every four years!**

With the longstanding practice of holding annual elections, Venice citizens may elect two Council members every year, or a four member majority in two consecutive Novembers-----a one year span.

Why would the City Council wish to place a majority beyond the reach of voters for four years? And yet not once mention the practical effect of this change to the voters?

The Council majority seems intent on rendering local government less responsive by abandoning annual elections and lengthening their own terms while at the same time encouraging partisanship by pairing all local elections with national elections.

Jim Perry, Venice

From: [Carol Newnam](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Please vote against extending your election terms
Date: Saturday, June 8, 2024 9:16:42 AM

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Dear Mayor and City Council members, I oppose the proposal to extend your election terms and add to our November 2024 ballot. This is not our decision but yours. Please vote against this decision on Tuesday June 11th.

Regards,

Carol Newnam
906 Golden Beach Blvd.

From: [Nicholas Pachota](#)
To: [Earl and Karen Midlam](#); [Jim Boldt](#); [Helen Moore](#); [Joan Farrell](#); [Ronald Smith](#); [Rachel Frank](#); [Rick Howard](#)
Subject: Re: Change in election terms for Venice City Council - sunshine law
Date: Sunday, June 9, 2024 12:11:46 AM

Thank you for your comments. Due to Florida's Sunshine Law and a City Council policy, neither I nor any other Council Member copied on this e-mail can reply substantively to your e-mail in writing. The Sunshine Law prohibits two or more members of City Council from discussing any matter which will foreseeably come before Council outside of a publicly noticed meeting. Any Council Member may address the topic of this e-mail at a future meeting.

If you wish to contact council members individually, you may email or call them. Contact information can be found at <https://www.venicegov.com/government/mayor-city-council>.

Nick Pachota
Mayor, City of Venice

Nick Pachota
Mayor
City of Venice
401 W Venice Avenue
Venice FL 34285
Office: (941) 882-7407
Cell: (941) 303-3485
E-mail: npachota@venicefl.gov
2020 Census Population: 25,463

From: Earl and Karen Midlam <themidlams@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, June 8, 2024 3:25:44 PM
To: Nicholas Pachota <NPachota@Venicefl.gov>; Jim Boldt <jboldt@venicefl.gov>; Helen Moore <HMoore@Venicefl.gov>; Joan Farrell <jfarrell@venicefl.gov>; Ronald Smith <rsmith@venicefl.gov>; Rachel Frank <rfrank@venicefl.gov>; Rick Howard <rhoward@venicefl.gov>
Subject: Change in election terms for Venice City Council

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Good afternoon. We are Venice natives and would like to have this entered into the public record. We are asking Council members to not change the length of the terms of City Council to 4 years. One reason brought up at the last Council meeting from the dais was that it can take a newly elected Councilmember some time to understand the policies and responsibilities of the position only to have to run again 3 years later after getting acclimated to the job. Please note that said Councilmember would be the incumbent in any subsequent election and as such has name recognition. How many voters have just voted for the name they are familiar with?

You can say that it will save the City money by not having to have the election in an off-year and hopefully more people will go out and vote, but the only ones who will save money are the political parties who are spending tons of money every 4 years who can now include their preferred candidates (in this non-partisan race if you remember) in their advertising.

Please do not change the terms. This would not look good on you. Thank you.

Earl and Karen Midlam

From: [Rachel Frank](#)
To: [Marshall Happer](#)
Subject: Re: Conflict of Interest: Proposed Referendum to abandon City Elections and increase terms of office and compensation
Date: Monday, June 10, 2024 7:08:21 AM

Hi Marshall,

I respectfully disagree with a few of your comments in this email. Please feel free to call my city cell phone if you would like to further discuss.

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From: Marshall Happer <happer@happer.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 9, 2024 5:28:40 PM
To: Nicholas Pachota <NPachota@Venicefl.gov>; Jim Boldt <jboldt@venicefl.gov>; Joan Farrell <jfarrell@venicefl.gov>; Rachel Frank <rfrank@venicefl.gov>; Rick Howard <rhoward@venicefl.gov>; Helen Moore <HMoore@Venicefl.gov>; Ronald Smith <rsmith@venicefl.gov>
Subject: Conflict of Interest: Proposed Referendum to abandon City Elections and increase terms of office and compensation

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Dear Mayor Pachota and Council Members Frank, Howard, Boldt and Moore:

As far as I can tell, the City Council has never in the past unilaterally without the study and recommendations of the Charter Review Committee proposed an increase in the compensation of Council members or the extension of their terms of office.

A few years ago when I served on the Combined Council Compensation and Charter Review Committee, we recommended that the practice of providing lifetime medical insurance for Council members by the City be terminated. Upon that recommendation, they were, in fact, terminated.

You have no recommendations from your Charter Review Committee for your proposed Referendum to abandon annual City elections. If you vote for the proposed Referendum, you are each personally in fact recommending its passage.

Mayor Pachota, Council Member Frank and Council Member Howard: Voting for the proposed Referendum means you are not only personally recommending its passage, if it is passed you would each be personally benefiting by an increase

your terms of office and you would also be benefiting by the increase the terms of your compensation from the City of Venice. With all due respect, in my opinion, that should be a disabling conflict of interest. Please think about it!

Finally, any plan to abandon annual City elections is bad for our City because it will take away from us as voters the opportunity to add new members to our City Council every year and it will make campaigns more expensive which will benefit the big money development donors to City Council campaigns.

It is my understanding that in the past, each of you may have received support for your election by development interests. As City Council members, you have to vote on a lot of development petitions and if you support and recommend this Referendum, you are opening the door for legitimate criticism.

I respectfully request that you reconsider your position and vote against the proposed Referendum without any independent consideration and recommendation from the Charter Review Committee or the citizens of Venice.

Thanks for your consideration.

Marshall Happer
North Venice, FL 34275

From: [Joan Farrell](#)
To: [Marshall Happer](#)
Subject: Re: Conflict of Interest: Proposed Referendum to abandon City Elections and increase terms of office and compensation
Date: Sunday, June 9, 2024 8:26:01 PM

Marshall,

You email is the first to bring up the idea of the increased compensation which would result from an increase in the term from 3 years to 4 years.

Thank you for your perspective and for taking the time to write.

As you know, we on City Council are under the Sunshine laws, and we are often advised to avoid even the “appearance of impropriety”. There are many aspects of the 4 year term idea which seem to have this appearance.

The Second Reading is Tuesday. We will see what transpires.

Best Regards,

Joan

From: Marshall Happer <happer@happer.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 9, 2024 5:28:40 PM
To: Nicholas Pachota <NPachota@Venicefl.gov>; Jim Boldt <jboldt@venicefl.gov>; Joan Farrell <jfarrell@venicefl.gov>; Rachel Frank <rfrank@venicefl.gov>; Rick Howard <rhoward@venicefl.gov>; Helen Moore <HMoore@Venicefl.gov>; Ronald Smith <rsmith@venicefl.gov>
Subject: Conflict of Interest: Proposed Referendum to abandon City Elections and increase terms of office and compensation

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Thanks for your consideration.

Marshall Happer
North Venice, FL 34275

From: [Holly Ringle](#)
To: [Nicholas Pachota](#)
Cc: [City Council](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Re: Even year elections for city council - sunshine law
Date: Friday, June 7, 2024 11:44:31 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from hollyreshringle@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Thank you for the education. Will do.

holly ringle
(m) 269 598 5863

On Jun 5, 2024, at 11:21 PM, Nicholas Pachota <NPachota@venicefl.gov> wrote:

Thank you for your comments. Due to Florida's Sunshine Law and a City Council policy, neither I nor any other Council Member copied on this e-mail can reply substantively to your e-mail in writing. The Sunshine Law prohibits two or more members of City Council from discussing any matter which will foreseeably come before Council outside of a publicly noticed meeting. Any Council Member may address the topic of this e-mail at a future meeting.

If you wish to contact council members individually, you may email or call them. Contact information can be found at <https://www.venicegov.com/government/mayor-city-council>.

Nick Pachota
Mayor, City of Venice

Nick Pachota
Mayor
City of Venice
401 W Venice Avenue
Venice FL 34285
Office: (941) 882-7407
Cell: (941) 303-3485
E-mail: npachota@venicefl.gov
2020 Census Population: 25,463

From: Holly Ringle <hollyreshringle@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 11:02:37 PM
To: City Council <citycouncil@venicefl.gov>
Cc: Board and Council Messages <boardandcouncilmessages@venicefl.gov>
Subject: Even year elections for city council

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I advocate for letting the voters have a voice on this long-debated issue.

holly ringle
1456 royalty way
Venice, fl 34292
(m) 269 598 5863

From: [Nicholas Pachota](#)
To: [NANCY DANIELS](#)
Cc: [Helen Moore](#); [Ronald Smith](#); [Jim Boldt](#); [Joan Farrell](#); [Rachel Frank](#); [Rick Howard](#)
Subject: Re: Extension of election terms - sunshine law
Date: Sunday, June 9, 2024 9:43:43 PM

Thank you for your comments. Due to Florida's Sunshine Law and a City Council policy, neither I nor any other Council Member copied on this e-mail can reply substantively to your e-mail in writing. The Sunshine Law prohibits two or more members of City Council from discussing any matter which will foreseeably come before Council outside of a publicly noticed meeting. Any Council Member may address the topic of this e-mail at a future meeting.

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Mayor, City of Venice

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Venice FL 34285
Office: (941) 882-7407
Cell: (941) 303-3485
E-mail: npachota@venicefl.gov
2020 Census Population: 25,463

From: NANCY DANIELS <ndaniels1102@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 9, 2024 9:33:59 PM
To: Nicholas Pachota <NPachota@Venicefl.gov>
Cc: Helen Moore <HMoore@Venicefl.gov>; Ronald Smith <rsmith@venicefl.gov>; Jim Boldt <jboldt@venicefl.gov>; Joan Farrell <jfarrell@venicefl.gov>; Rachel Frank <rfrank@venicefl.gov>; Rick Howard <rhoward@venicefl.gov>
Subject: Extension of election terms

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Dear Representatives of Venice citizens,
I along with hundreds of citizens do NOT want extended election terms. The citizens have voiced their opinion. As the representatives of the people oppose the decision to extend election terms and add to the November 2024 ballot. Vote against this decision on Tuesday, June 11th. Listen to the citizens who voted you in office.
Respectfully, Nancy K Daniels

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Nicholas Pachota](#)
To: [Susan OBryan](#); [Jim Boldt](#); rsmith@venice.gov; [Rachel Frank](#); [Rick Howard](#); [Helen Moore](#); jfarrell@venice.gov
Subject: Re: June 11 Meeting - sunshine law
Date: Sunday, June 9, 2024 9:40:55 PM

Thank you for your comments. Due to Florida's Sunshine Law and a City Council policy, neither I nor any other Council Member copied on this e-mail can reply substantively to your e-mail in writing. The Sunshine Law prohibits two or more members of City Council from discussing any matter which will foreseeably come before Council outside of a publicly noticed meeting. Any Council Member may address the topic of this e-mail at a future meeting.

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Mayor, City of Venice

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E-mail: npachota@venicefl.gov
2020 Census Population: 25,463

From: Susan OBryan <suectc@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 9, 2024 1:12:00 PM
To: Nicholas Pachota <NPachota@Venicefl.gov>; Jim Boldt <jboldt@venicefl.gov>; rsmith@venice.gov <rsmith@venice.gov>; [Rachel Frank](mailto:rfrank@venicefl.gov) <rfrank@venicefl.gov>; [Rick Howard](mailto:rhoward@venicefl.gov) <rhoward@venicefl.gov>; [Helen Moore](mailto:HMoore@Venicefl.gov) <HMoore@Venicefl.gov>; jfarrell@venice.gov <jfarrell@venice.gov>
Subject: June 11 Meeting

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We strongly oppose your decision to extend your election terms and add to our November 2024 ballot. This is YOUR decision, NOT OURS. Please vote against this decision on June 11.

Susan and Everett OBryan
193 Bella Vista Terr. Unit D
North Venice, FL 34275

From: [Ronald Smith](#)
To: [James Perry](#)
Subject: Re: Term Lengths
Date: Monday, June 10, 2024 7:29:10 AM

Thank you, sir.
Ron Smith

From: James Perry <jperry64@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 9, 2024 1:01:38 PM
To: Ronald Smith <rsmith@venicefl.gov>
Subject: Term Lengths

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Ron,

The fact that Pachota's plan will mean that Venice voters will only be able to replace a council majority ONCE every four years needs to be highlighted at the June 11 City Council meeting.

Once fully implemented in 2028 with the election of 4 members during another Presidential election, Venice citizens will not be able to replace the majority until 2032, and every four years thereafter! 2036, 2040.....

No Council proponent, nor our City Attorney has mentioned this result-----for obvious reasons.

Keep up the good work, hundreds of your constituents appreciate it, even if most don't let you know.

Jim Perry

From: [John Moeckel](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [James Clinch](#); [Board and Council Messages](#)
Subject: Venice City Council terms and term limits
Date: Thursday, June 6, 2024 9:05:23 PM

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Dear City Council,

I would like to voice my support for the new term and term limits that you have approved in the first reading, and I support your approval in the second reading June 11.

I believe this is a great idea to:

1. To see if the Venice voters would support it.
2. Save some \$50,000 per year in our tax dollars which is a great deal of our money.
3. Off year elections draw only a small percentage of the voters. Elections years draws a major majority of voters, therefore more reflective of the population of voters.
4. Two 4-year terms seems appropriate for City Council.

I have heard Ron Smith's thoughts on Frankie A's website against this initiative. And I know that Joan supports his position. I believe that position is self-serving and is not in the best interests of Venice. Actually, candidates can be voted in by only a couple of communities in off year elections. Again, not in the best interest of Venice.

There needs to be a concerted effort to educate the voters on the positives of this election method.

Best,

John Moeckel