

**From:** [Sharon Mathews-Bellendir](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Board and Council Messages](#)  
**Subject:** Change in City Council Member Term and Date of Election  
**Date:** Monday, June 3, 2024 10:42:50 AM

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Dear Council Members,

My husband and I appreciate the opportunity to be able to attend the City Council meetings because we are interested in seeing first hand how things work and how they really are. We appreciate the serious matters brought before you and know you are working to do the right thing for the citizens of Venice. Thank you for your time and dedication.

Last Wednesdays' Gondelier headline stated public opposition for changing the council members terms didn't change the minds of the City Council. Thank you for going forward and voting to allow the citizens of Venice to decide, to vote, whether or not they want to make this change in the term and election date. The fact is the **"opposition" in the audience last Tuesday was NOT representative of ALL the people of Venice**. I believe this was a partisan coalition supporting the one council member who has accused some of his co-council of stealing an added year to their term.

Apparently Ron Turner, the Supervisor of Elections, suggested the council consider changing the election moving away from the odd year election which would save the County and the City thousands of dollars of taxpayer money. This is a legitimate reason for doing so. The amount of money in thousands approximately \$50,000.00, Joan Farrell stated this is nothing, however, a couple of weeks ago Joan also stated she is still paying off \$11,000 in campaign expenses and that was significant to her. Why is \$50,000 of the peoples money not significant?

**Please continue to keep this item on the ballot in November.**

I realize a message to the City Council should be brief. The above statement is the subject of this email but since there is no platform to get the record straight I would like to share my observations about this issue and others.

Let's talk about campaigning for these elections. It is hard to come by someone who actually wants to run for City Council. It is expensive for the candidate, as Joan Farrell states, in materials and time. It is hard to get people to help with your campaign and cover a large territory. It is hard to defend the negativity and mud slinging that should not be part of campaigning but it is. So it brings the question just how many people in Tuesday's audience have actually campaigned for a candidate, actually went door-to-door for someone and knows how tough it really is.

More than that, most people don't even go out and vote!!! I think the turn out is about **35%** of 100%? A very poor showing. If you asked every citizen in Venice if they knew about this election for council members they would say what election?

The audience last Tuesday was most definitely partisan. One woman stated she was a life long republican but voted democrat last council election because she did not want to see a totally republican council, and will always vote democrat in the future. Doesn't sound like she considers who the person is or what they stand for. She was in support of tabling the referendum. One woman was from Nokomis, doesn't vote in our election, but wants to keep Venice the way it is, wanted to table the referendum? There were a couple of retired mayors who were against change, but every time there is an election and a new council member there is change. Maybe if these mayors would have been open to suggestions Venice could have save thousands of dollars long ago. They said the City might get stuck with someone and would have to wait four years to get rid of them? I know what that means, we had that with the last mayor but we persevered. And who knows, maybe the people of Venice do not want this change either. Give them a choice. Does it cost that much to add a referendum to the ballot? I don't know.

Lastly, in my view, this is a fairly new council. The longest standing council member is Helen Moore who is stepping down and is not considering another term. The constant accusation that this council is in the pocket of the developers is not accurate, that is just a partisan way to demean the council. All of the decisions regarding the development and developers has been made several years ago. Due to laws and ordinances, etc. the council hands are tied and the previous agreements cannot be undone. I applaud the Council for voting NO on the last request by Pat Neal to build more housing on one particular project reducing the living space for the people so he can make more money. They are starting to make the changes in the right direction.

Sharon Bellendir

**From:** [Dusty Feller](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Board and Council Messages](#)  
**Subject:** Let the Voters Have a Voice  
**Date:** Monday, June 3, 2024 11:15:27 AM

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Dear Council Members,

I fully endorse your decision to allow citizens to have a say in our voting process this fall. A robust voter turnout is crucial for a healthy democracy, especially given the low 35% turnout in off-year elections. This does not represent the will of the people when 6 out of 10 do not show up. We strongly urge you to keep this issue on November's ballot. Please let all Venice voters. have a voice.

Additionally, I appreciate potentially saving taxpayers \$50,000 to \$100,000, equivalent to a firefighter or police officer's salary. As a working mom, that is a lot of money and love to see fiscal responsibility in actions, not just words.

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

Dusty Feller

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Anne Schilling](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Board and Council Messages](#)  
**Subject:** Let The People You Represent VOTE  
**Date:** Monday, June 3, 2024 6:29:02 PM

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Dear Council Members,

Regarding last Wednesdays Gondolier headline about public opposition to putting term limits and members terms on the ballot, we support your decision to let Venice citizens vote on this matter.

I encourage you to keep this issue on Novembers ballot and let the voters decide this question.

I also appreciate Mr. Turner's comments in shifting away from odd-year elections, potentially saving taxpayer dollars. Every dollar saved matters. Once again please let the people you represent (the voters) decide on this long-discussed question.

Sincerely,

Lance J. Schilling

**From:** [Nicholas Pachota](#)  
**To:** [146bella@gmail.com](mailto:146bella@gmail.com); ["Ronald Smith"](#); [Joan Farrell](#); [Rachel Frank](#); [Jim Boldt](#); [Helen Moore](#); [Rick Howard](#)  
**Subject:** Re: June 11th City hall .... Election Referendum - sunshine law  
**Date:** Monday, June 3, 2024 8:43:21 PM

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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](mailto:npachota@venicefl.gov)  
*2020 Census Population: 25,463*

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**From:** 146bella@gmail.com <146bella@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 3, 2024 6:58:32 PM  
**To:** Nicholas Pachota <NPachota@Venicefl.gov>; 'Ronald Smith' <ronaldcsmith@gmail.com>; Joan Farrell <jfarrell@venicefl.gov>; Rachel Frank <rfrank@venicefl.gov>; Jim Boldt <jboldt@venicefl.gov>; Helen Moore <HMoore@Venicefl.gov>; Rick Howard <rhoward@venicefl.gov>  
**Subject:** June 11th City hall .... Election Referendum

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Hello Mayor and council members,

May 28<sup>th</sup> council meeting was the worst meeting I have attended. To my dismay the Mayor dismissed the many of us who came to speak as though we did not matter in the decision process. Jim Boldt asked, "are we truly representing the people of Venice?" and yet he voted against representing us correctly. Rick Howard never said a word. Did the 2023 election not prove to you how we feel? Whether you understand or not there is a mass majority of people we represent when we come to

city hall. Yes ... Mayor ... coalitions! People are tired of it. We tried to be respectful on May 28<sup>th</sup> .. not sure that will be the case on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

None of "We the People " asked for extended terms. This is your idea ! The majority do not want it or feel necessary. We will fight as we did with the LDR revision. Sadly, you brought this one on yourselves. 55 municipalities in Florida do not vote your suggested way.. only 10 do. Why are you do this? Why are you rushing?

Do the right thing and have the Charter Review Board reinstated and let them vet this, do a round table and have decision with the public please! Mayor ... are your reading minds ? Who wants this ? Thank you

Best,

Debbie Gericke  
146 Bella Vista Terrace C

A second reading of the ordinance is scheduled for June 11. If it is approved then, city voters will decide this fall whether to extend council terms to four years, with council elections held during evenly numbered years – as city elections are in North Port and Sarasota – to sync with either the presidential or gubernatorial elections.

**From:** [Nicholas Pachota](#)  
**To:** [Morena McCormack](#); [Rachel Frank](#); [Ronald Smith](#); [Jim Boldt](#); [Helen Moore](#); [Rick Howard](#); [Joan Farrell](#)  
**Subject:** Re: June 11th City hall .... Election Referendum - sunshine law  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 4, 2024 7:31:12 AM

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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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Nick Pachota  
Mayor, City of Venice

Nick Pachota  
Mayor  
City of Venice  
401 W Venice Avenue  
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Office: (941) 882-7407  
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*2020 Census Population: 25,463*

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**From:** Morena McCormack <[morenamcc@yahoo.com](mailto:morenamcc@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 4, 2024 7:09:47 AM  
**To:** Nicholas Pachota <[NPachota@Venicefl.gov](mailto:NPachota@Venicefl.gov)>; Rachel Frank <[rfrank@venicefl.gov](mailto:rfrank@venicefl.gov)>; Ronald Smith <[ronaldcsmith@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldcsmith@gmail.com)>; Jim Boldt <[jbaldt@venicefl.gov](mailto:jbaldt@venicefl.gov)>; Helen Moore <[HMoore@Venicefl.gov](mailto:HMoore@Venicefl.gov)>; Rick Howard <[rhoward@venicefl.gov](mailto:rhoward@venicefl.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: June 11th City hall .... Election Referendum

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though we did not matter in the decision process. Jim Boldt asked, " are we truly representing the people of Venice ?" and yet he voted against representing us correctly. Rick Howard never said a word. Did the 2023 election not prove to you how we feel ? Whether you understand or not there is a mass majority of people we represent when we come to city hall. Yes ... Mayor ... coalitions! People are tired of it. We tried to be respectful on May 28<sup>th</sup> .. not sure that will be the case on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

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Do the right thing and have the Charter Review Board reinstated and let them vet this, do a round table and have decision with the public please! Mayor ... are your reading minds ? Who wants this ? Thank you

Best,  
Morena McCormack  
125 Martellago Drive  
Nokomis, Florida

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**From:** [Joyce Ostrander](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Board and Council Messages](#)  
**Subject:** Term limits  
**Date:** Monday, June 3, 2024 8:03:48 PM

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Dear Council Members,

It has come to my attention that the Council will soon take up the question regarding a ballot measure addressing term limits.

I am in favor of the measure being on the ballot this year allowing Venice residents to determine if term limits for Council members are to be instituted.

Respectfully,  
Joyce Ostrander  
20 Gulf Manor Drive

**From:** [Kent Ostrander](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Board and Council Messages](#)  
**Subject:** Term limits  
**Date:** Monday, June 3, 2024 9:18:03 PM

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Dear Council Members,

Please support the plan to allow Venice citizens to vote on term limits.

Sincerely yours,

Kent Ostrander  
20 Gulf Manor Drive

**From:** [Duff Smiley](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Board and Council Messages](#)  
**Subject:** Council Member Limits  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 4, 2024 6:13:37 PM

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I believe we should let all the voters decide on term limits. Put this question on the ballot.

Duff  
586-303-7332