

**From:** [Faybina75](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Board and Council Messages](#)  
**Subject:** Election cycle  
**Date:** Sunday, April 21, 2024 10:28:06 AM

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Hello, we are writing to ask that you please not change the council members' terms from three-year terms to four-year terms. We believe that the current terms are working well. Longer terms will mean that there will be less opportunity for other qualified members of the community to participate in the city Council.

Thank you,

Jacqueline Fay and Paul Bina  
204 Bayshore Circle  
Venice

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

**From:** [Florence Connor](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Board and Council Messages](#)  
**Subject:** Terms in office  
**Date:** Sunday, April 21, 2024 3:57:45 PM

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It is my opinion that the terms should remain as they are. One can be re-elected if they and the public wish to have a longer term.

Although it may be hard to find participants, it would be best to make residents more aware of the importance of these positions. With an understanding of the town governing system, one may become interested in participating in it.

Representing the town is an honor. If more people understood how it works, you might even have to turn some away. Begin to use the media to educate the residents. I bet most don't even have a clue.

Florence E. Connor. A resident, I vote.  
652 Bird Bay Dr. W.  
Venice FL, 34285

**From:** [146bella@gmail.com](mailto:146bella@gmail.com)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Board and Council Messages](#)  
**Subject:** We are against these agenda items please vote NO  
**Date:** Sunday, April 21, 2024 10:16:59 AM

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**From Debbie Gericke:**

At their April 23 meeting, City Council will consider two proposals that Venice Thrives has concerns about:

**Reducing public comments at their meetings:** The city attorney and city clerk have submitted a memo recommending that City Council limit when the public can speak at Council meetings by:

- restricting public comment to the one-hour audience participation section at the beginning of each meeting and eliminating the option to speak when specific agenda items are being discussed. (Quasi-judicial public hearings are the exception.)
- eliminating the ability of Council members to respond to public comments during audience participation. Although such responses are uncommon, explicitly forbidding them needlessly limits Council's interaction with citizens.
- restricting the ability of a member of the public to read another resident's comments into the record as is currently allowed when someone is unable to attend in person. Currently a resident has 5 minutes for each comment; the change would mean they get 5 minutes combined.

Venice Thrives believes that public participation at City Council meetings is an essential part of effective and informed local government and that the current process works well. Listening to their constituents should be a high priority for our elected officials. If you agree, **please email [citycouncil@venicefl.gov](mailto:citycouncil@venicefl.gov) before Tuesday and urge them not to change public participation rules for their meetings.**

**Changing the city's election cycles.** Since 1927, the Venice City Charter has mandated that the mayor and City Council serve three-year terms, with staggered elections so that two members of Council are elected each year. The mayor has proposed changes to that election cycle, in the name of saving money, by eliminating elections that don't coincide with County Commission election years.

This would mean that members would serve four-year terms instead of three. And to

accomplish this quickly, **City Council will consider proposals that would add an extra year onto the current terms of up to five members of Council.** To do this, they will have to change the City Charter and hold a citizens referendum this November.

Venice Thrives believes that if changes are made to the election process, current City Council terms should not be extended. The voters elected City Council to three-year terms and any extension of that period contradicts the will of the voters. If you agree, write to [citycouncil@venicefl.gov](mailto:citycouncil@venicefl.gov).

*Venice Thrives when citizens get involved.*

**From:** [Barbara Desmond](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Board and Council Messages](#)  
**Subject:** Election Change & Citizen participation  
**Date:** Sunday, April 21, 2024 11:32:51 AM

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While we may save a few dollars with this recommend voting change in City Elections, local candidates and issues get lost. Venice is front and center in off years and that's good for our community.

Citizen input should be encouraged not limited and discouraged. Elected officials work for the folks who put them in office and community input should be one valuable resource in helping reach Council decision's.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kristin Hoffschmidt](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Board and Council Messages](#)  
**Subject:** Don't change election cycles or terms  
**Date:** Sunday, April 21, 2024 1:53:27 PM

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Dear members of the Venice City Council:

I am writing to ask you to not change the Venice City Charter and keep City Council member terms staggered for three years. Creating longer terms would likely shrink the pool of candidates because less people would be willing and available to serve for that period of time. More frequent elections help to ensure that members do not become too entrenched in their positions and relationships related to their role.

Moreover, additional years should not be added to the terms of current members. The voters elected them for three years, not four. An election should be held for any interim vacancies.

Sincerely,  
Kristin Hoffschmidt  
232 Gulf Drive, Venice

**From:** [Dennis Sica](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Board and Council Messages](#)  
**Subject:** Terms and public comment time  
**Date:** Sunday, April 21, 2024 5:00:46 PM

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I fully agree with Venice Thrives on not changing public comment time and member terms. Let us have some say, we feel your not hearing us. You need to slow development and hear what residents are saying.

Dennis Sica  
Venetian Golf and River Club

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**From:** [Mary Kean](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Board and Council Messages](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Changes  
**Date:** Monday, April 22, 2024 1:41:58 PM

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To City Council Members:

We are fulltime Fla residents and enjoy living here. Thank you for your hard work. We are greatly concerned over two recent proposals regarding Venice City Council. We believe it only fair that current City Council members complete their current 3 yr terms prior to any change in election cycle. We also believe public comment at City Council meeting should remain as present and not be further restricted. Current public comment rules are restrictive enough, no need to muzzle voters beyond current rules. Thank you for considering these comments. Mary & Dennis Kean



**From:** [Hank Pizer](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Board and Council Messages](#)  
**Subject:** I'm opposed to restricting public comment at meetings or changing the Charter to create 4-year terms  
**Date:** Monday, April 22, 2024 8:41:41 AM

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Dear City Councillor,

I understand that the Venice City Council will consider a proposal by the city attorney and city clerk that would restrict public comment to the one-hour audience participation section at the beginning of each meeting as well as eliminating the option to speak on a specific agenda item. **I am opposed to this proposal and hope you will reject it.** Central to the democratic process is the ability of citizens to question and comment on actions of their elected officials. Please preserve the current public participation rules.

I am also opposed to changing the Venice City Charter so that council members would serve for 4 years. The Charter specifies 3-year terms and I am against changing this. The rotating elections with a 3-year term allows for turnover that adds new voices to the deliberations of the City Council. Please do not change the Charter. And certainly do NOT extend the terms of existing council members toward the goal of 4-year terms. Again, such an action disregards and undermines the wishes of the people who elected you.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns.

Best regards,

Hank Pizer  
500 Park Blvd. South  
Venice, 34285

**From:** [Christine Pizer](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Board and Council Messages](#)  
**Subject:** Do NOT restrict public comment or change the Charter to create 4-year terms  
**Date:** Monday, April 22, 2024 8:34:06 AM

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

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Dear City Councillor,

I am disturbed to hear that the Venice City Council will consider a proposal by the city attorney and city clerk that would restrict public comment to the one-hour audience participation section at the beginning of each meeting as well as eliminating the option to speak on a specific agenda item. *The essence of democracy is for elected officials to hear from and consider the concerns of the people who elected them.* We see this right curtailed all too often these days. Please preserve the current public participation rules.

Equally troubling is the idea of changing the Venice City Charter so that council members would serve for 4 years. Since 1927, the Charter specifies 3-year terms and I am against changing this. The rotating elections with a 3-year term allows for turnover that adds new voices to the deliberations of the City Council. Please do not change the Charter. And certainly do NOT extend the terms of existing council members toward the goal of 4-year terms. Again, such an action disregards and undermines the wishes of the people who elected you.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns.

Best regards,

Christine Pizer  
500 Park Blvd. South  
Venice, 34285

**From:** [Tommye Whittaker](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Board and Council Messages](#)  
**Subject:** Who asked for a voting change?  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 8:43:18 AM

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City Council members,

You've done a lot of good for your community. I personally feel you listen to your constituents more. Thank you for that.

But the attempt to change when the community votes and giving only some of you an extra year isn't for us. You must know that. Four years is far too long.

Saving \$50,000 every other year on lumping Venice into State and National Voting is moot. The minute the CC voted to \$8 million of our money to assist with a road for a man suing you, that reasoning fell out the window. And the city has a massive surplus. Our fair City can handle this drop in the bucket for a more fair and nonpartisan race.

When these races are stand-alone, ( something you've all had the pleasure to be a part of), the public actually gets to hear from you, your thoughts, and ideas. It helps them make a concise decision. I don't care what Jack Brill wants. He doesn't even live in Venice. Would you trust someone who wasted over \$300,000 on a small-town race and lost?

Thank you. Tommye Whittaker  
Venice, FL.