

## Toni Cone

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**Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2024 8:51 AM  
**To:** Toni Cone

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Statement of Ed Martin, 30 years taxpayer of Venice.  
May 28, 2024  
Venice City Council.

My purpose here is to encourage council interaction with citizens on local issues, not partisan politics in any sense.

In November this year we will have been taxpayers and resident of Venice for 31 years. In that time I have watched dozens of councils respond to citizen interests. Sometimes these interests differed from those of Council Members, many times they met and agreed.

Citizens did not want a Marriott complex built on the Lake Venice Good Course. It wasn't. Citizens did not want commercial development on the waste water treatment plant. It is now Maxine Barritt Park. Citizens wanted a professional quality performance center, it is now VPAC. Citizens used to get five minutes to express their views on development that impacted on their homes. Developers and their attorneys had unlimited time, could bring witnesses, experts, consultants, etc. Hours passed.

The City ordinances were changed so neighbors could qualify for "standing" and have the same time allowances, permissions as the developers and similar petitioners.

A common factor is that these discussions took place in a responsive system that had annual council elections, and that always increased discussions and receptivity.

Today, I am presenting a brief excerpt from a National Institute of Health massive research project which demonstrates that elected officials are more interested and receptive to citizen interests in election years.

And so I ask you to continue annual elections, stay close to the taxpayers interests. Do not extend terms of office, that three year plan and annual elections has worked extremely well for Venice.

Let's look at financial implications. The cost of election has been raised.

In FY 2023, Venice City had total revenue of \$43, 533,492.  
Revenues exceeded expenses by more than \$3,000,000 and there was also a reserve fund of 12,3.  
Million.

I have seen several numbers as estimates for a city election, starting with \$35,000, another \$50,000,  
perhaps clerk can help us with a real figure.

Meanwhile one percent of revenue is \$430,000, 1/10 of one percent is \$43,000.

I think you will agree receptivity to the voters, taxpayers, is worth 1/10 of one percent.

Thank you.

Ed Martin

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7299200/>

## Do Elections Improve Constituency Responsiveness? Evidence from US Cities

"Do elections motivate incumbent politicians to serve their voters? In this paper, we use millions of service requests placed by residents in US cities to measure constituency responsiveness. We then test whether an unusual policy change in New York City, which enabled city councilors to run for three rather than two terms in office, improved constituency responsiveness in previously term-limited councilors' districts. Using difference-in-differences, we find robust evidence for this. Taking advantage of differential timing of local election races in New York City and San Francisco, we also find late-term improvements to responsiveness in districts represented by reelection-seeking incumbents. Elections improve municipal services, but also create cycles in constituency responsiveness. These findings have implications for theories of representative democracy."

## Dates for Local Elections

To find elections scheduled solely within your county, select a county and calendar year below. For the most up-to-date information about elections in your county, please contact your Supervisor of Elections.

### All 2024 Election Dates

Date	Jurisdiction	Election Type	County
01/16/24	State House District 35	Special Election	Orange
✓ 03/12/24	Town of LaCrosse	Municipal	Alachua
03/19/24	City of Maitland	Municipal	Orange
03/19/24	Town of Eatonville	Municipal	Orange
03/19/24	City of Ocoee	Municipal	Orange
03/19/24	City of Winter Garden	Municipal	Orange
03/19/24	Juno Beach	Municipal	Palm Beach
03/19/24	Jupiter Inlet Colony	Municipal	Palm Beach
03/19/24	Lake Park	Municipal	Palm Beach
03/19/24	Lake Worth Beach	Municipal	Palm Beach
03/19/24	Lantana	Municipal	Palm Beach
03/19/24	Loxahatchee Groves	Municipal	Palm Beach
03/19/24	North Palm Beach	Municipal	Palm Beach
03/19/24	Ocean Ridge	Municipal	Palm Beach
03/19/24	Pahokee	Municipal	Palm Beach
03/19/24	Palm Beach	Municipal	Palm Beach
03/19/24	Palm Beach Gardens	Municipal	Palm Beach
03/19/24	Riviera Beach	Municipal	Palm Beach
03/19/24	Royal Palm Beach	Municipal	Palm Beach
03/19/24	South Bay	Municipal	Palm Beach
03/19/24	Tequesta	Municipal	Palm Beach
03/19/24	Wellington	Municipal	Palm Beach

03/19/24	West Palm Beach	22	Municipal	Palm Beach
03/19/24	Belle Glade	23	Municipal	Palm Beach
03/19/24	Boca Raton	24	Municipal	Palm Beach
03/19/24	Delray Beach	25	Municipal	Palm Beach
03/19/24	Greenacres	26	Municipal	Palm Beach
03/19/24	Highland Beach	27	Municipal	Palm Beach
03/19/24	Hypoluxo	28	Municipal	Palm Beach
03/19/24	City of Belleair Beach	29	Municipal	Pinellas
03/19/24	City of Clearwater	30	Municipal	Pinellas
03/19/24	City of Gulfport	31	Municipal	Pinellas
03/19/24	City of Indian Rocks Beach	32	Municipal	Pinellas
03/19/24	Town of Indian Shores	33	Municipal	Pinellas
03/19/24	Town of Kenneth City	34	Municipal	Pinellas
03/19/24	City of Madeira Beach	35	Municipal	Pinellas
03/19/24	City of Oldsmar	36	Municipal	Pinellas
03/19/24	City of Pinellas Park	37	Municipal	Pinellas
03/19/24	City of Safety Harbor	38	Municipal	Pinellas
03/19/24	City of Treasure Island	39	Municipal	Pinellas
03/19/24	Holiday Park and Recreation District		Special District	Sarasota
03/19/24	Tri-Par Estates Park and Recreation District		Special District	Sarasota
03/26/24	City of High Springs		Special Election	Alachua
04/02/24	Plant City	40	Municipal	Hillsborough
04/02/24	City of Cedar Key	41	Municipal	Levy
04/02/24	Cedar Key Water & Sewer District		Special District	Levy
04/02/24	City of Chiefland	42	Municipal	Levy
04/02/24	Town of Inglis	43	Municipal	Levy
04/02/24	Town of Otter Creek	44	Municipal	Levy
04/02/24	City of Williston	45	Municipal	Levy
04/02/24	Town of Yankeetown	46	Municipal	Levy
04/03/24	Town of Reddick	47	Municipal	Marion
04/09/24	City of Alachua	48	Municipal	Alachua

04/09/24	Town of Orange Park		Special Election	Clay
04/09/24	City of Keystone Heights		Mail Ballot Referendum	Clay
04/09/24	Town of Orange Park		General Election	Clay
04/09/24	Cottondale City Election		Special Election	Jackson
04/09/24	Graceville City Election		Special Election	Jackson
04/09/24	Grand Ridge Town Election		Special Election	Jackson
04/09/24	Marianna City Election		Special Election	Jackson
04/09/24	Malone Town Election		Special Election	Jackson
04/09/24	Sneads City Election		Special Election	Jackson
04/09/24	Alford Town Election		Special Election	Jackson
04/09/24	City of Dade City	49	Municipal	Pasco
04/09/24	City of New Port Richey	50	Municipal	Pasco
04/09/24	City of Port Richey	51	Municipal	Pasco
04/09/24	City of San Antonio	52	Municipal	Pasco
04/09/24	Town of St Leo	53	Municipal	Pasco
04/09/24	City of Zephyrhills	54	Municipal	Pasco
04/16/24	Town of Iglis		Runoff	Levy
04/16/24	City of Winter Park		Runoff	Orange
04/16/24	City of Winter Garden		Runoff	Orange
04/23/24	City of Archer		Runoff	Alachua
04/23/24	City of Cedar Key		Runoff	Levy
04/23/24	City of Chiefland		Runoff	Levy
04/30/24	City of Alachua		Runoff	Alachua
04/30/24	City of Williston		Runoff	Levy
05/14/24	City of Keystone Heights (if needed)		Runoff	Clay
05/14/24	Town of Orange Park (if needed)		Runoff	Clay
05/21/24	City of Sanibel		Special Election	Lee
05/21/24	Captiva Erosion Protection Services		Referendum	Lee
05/21/24	City of Orlando		Special Election	Orange
05/28/24	Plant City		Runoff	Hillsborough
06/11/24	City of Hawthorne	55	Municipal	Alachua

06/18/24	City of Orlando	Special Runoff	Orange
06/25/24	City of Hawthorne	Runoff	Alachua
08/20/24	City of Gainesville	Municipal	Alachua
08/20/24	City of Punta Gorda	Municipal	Charlotte
08/20/24	City of Cape Coral	Primary Election	Lee
08/20/24	City of Fort Myers	Primary Election	Lee
08/20/24	Okeechobee County - School Board	Primary Election	Okeechobee
08/20/24	Okeechobee County - County Commissioner	Primary Election	Okeechobee
08/20/24	City of St. Pete Beach	Special Election	Pinellas
08/20/24	City of St. Petersburg	Primary Election	Pinellas
08/20/24	City of North Port	Municipal	Sarasota
08/20/24	City of Sarasota	Municipal	Sarasota
08/20/24	City of Paxton	Municipal	Walton
10/01/24	City of Fanning Springs	Municipal	Levy
✓ 11/05/24	City of Gainesville	Municipal	Alachua
11/05/24	City of High Springs	Municipal	Alachua
11/05/24	City of Punta Gorda	Municipal	Charlotte
11/05/24	City of Bonita Springs	General Election	Lee
11/05/24	City of Cape Coral	General Election	Lee
11/05/24	City of Fort Myers	General Election	Lee
11/05/24	Town of Fort Myers Beach	General Election	Lee
11/05/24	City of Fanning Springs	Runoff	Levy
11/05/24	Town of Dunnellon	General Election	Marion
11/05/24	Town of McIntosh	General Election	Marion
11/05/24	City of Belleview	General Election	Marion
11/05/24	Okeechobee County - County Commissioner	General Election	Okeechobee
11/05/24	City of Okeechobee - City Commissioner	General Election	Okeechobee
11/05/24	Okeechobee County - School Board	General Election	Okeechobee
11/05/24	City of St. Petersburg	General Election	Pinellas
11/05/24	City of Dunedin	Municipal	Pinellas
11/05/24	City of Largo	Municipal	Pinellas

Fall ↘

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11/05/24	City of Seminole	6	Municipal	Pinellas
11/05/24	Charter Review Board		Special District	Sarasota
11/05/24	Hospital Board		Special District	Sarasota
11/05/24	Blackburn Creek CDD		Special District	Sarasota
11/05/24	Bobcat Trail CDD		Special District	Sarasota
11/05/24	Lakeside Plantation CDD		Special District	Sarasota
11/05/24	Sarasota National CDD		Special District	Sarasota
11/05/24	Sarasota Soil and Water Conservation District		Special District	Sarasota
11/05/24	Stoneybrook at Venice CDD		Special District	Sarasota
11/05/24	The Woodlands CDD		Special District	Sarasota
11/05/24	Toscana Isles CDD		Special District	Sarasota
11/05/24	Venetian CDD		Special District	Sarasota
11/05/24	City of North Port	7	Municipal	Sarasota
11/05/24	City of Sarasota	8	Municipal	Sarasota
11/05/24	City of Venice	9	Municipal	Sarasota
12/03/24	City of Waldo	10	Municipal	Alachua
12/17/24	City of Waldo		Runoff	Alachua

County: All

▼ Year: 2024 ▼ List Election Dates

# Testimony of Jim Perry before the Venice City Council on May 28, 2024 re Proposal to Alter the Length of Council Terms and Stagger of Elections

My name is Jim Perry and I am a twenty year resident of Venice.

I learned last month that there was a proposal to change the method of electing our City Council. I was surprised because **No ONE** in Venice had been advocating for such a change.....AND THIS IS A MONUMENTAL CHANGE

The City Council owes us an explanation as to WHY the Citizens Advisory Committee and the Charter Review Committee were not asked to give a recommendation on such a significant matter. Otherwise, what is their purpose??

Those Committees should be asked today for their views -----unless of course, after 98 years, the plan is to rush this change through without thorough review.

NEXT QUESTION.....WHERE DID THIS PROPOSAL COME FROM???

Not from your constituents. I have read every single piece of correspondence sent to the Council and posted on the city website.

**Not one, not even one** supports this change! I read the letters to the Editor in the Gondolier. All opposed this change. So what more can the public do to impress this Council?

So I ask again, where did this proposal come from? **It seems it came from SARASOTA.**

But THIS IS VENICE, can anyone explain why Sarasota County officials should be **dictating** the methods by which Venice citizens elect their leaders?

**NOW MY PRINCIPAL CONCERN.**

Under current procedures Venice citizens elect at least two Council members each November.

That means Venice voters may replace a majority of the City Council in just a one year period. Two new

members were elected in Nov. 2023 and two members will be elected in Nov. 2024. That's 4 members, a new majority, in just a 365 day period.

Contrast the Sarasota proposal. When fully implemented in 2028, four new Council members will be elected to 4 years terms. The day after the 2028 election, it will take Venice voters **four years**, that's **four years, until 2032** to alter that majority.

Let me repeat that, the Sarasota proposal **quadruples, from one year to four years**, the amount of time it will take Venice citizens to alter a majority on the City Council.

**The dirty little secret concealed in the Sarasota proposal is that it will take four times as long to elect a new majority on the City Council.**

Up until now I have always been proud to be a resident of Venice. But to have sitting Council members vote to extend their own terms without an election is clearly self serving and an embarrassment to the City of Venice.

In view of near unanimous citizen opposition, the City Council should abandon Sarasota's plan for Venice City elections before further damage is done to our city's reputation.

**JIM PERRY**