

PHILADELPHIA 3.0

The case for term limits #1: No one ever leaves... willingly Term Limits break the cycle

FACT: From 1979 to 2011, Philadelphia City Councilmembers were more likely to leave office because they took DROP (4), died (5), or got arrested (6) than leave office for a voluntary reason. At the start of 2015, only 2 of 17 sitting Councilmembers were in office because their predecessor voluntarily retired.

Philadelphia 3.0 believes City Council is a public service, not a lifetime appointment.

But we all know that doesn't happen!

How many have left willingly?

Over nine election cycles, from 1979 to 2011, a total of 153 Council seats were up for election. On only FIVE occasions in that time did a sitting City Council member simply decided to retire voluntarily. That is 3%! Yes, you read that right. An additional TWO left early to take a new job in government. And SEVEN were forced to leave to run for another office because of the "resign-to-run" rule.

How many left unwillingly?

Far more City Councilmembers have left office for reasons other than retirement. FOUR Councilmembers retired for a day just to collect lump sum pensions in the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP). FIVE City Councilmembers died while in office. SIX left because of a criminal arrest or other charge.

How bad is it on the current Council?

At the start of 2015, only TWO City Councilmembers started their careers because a previous incumbent had previously retired voluntarily. The rest got their seats because an incumbent died (ONE), took DROP (FOUR), or stepped down to run for another office or take another job (SIX). Only a handful of Councilmembers actually beat their predecessor to be there (FOUR).

SOLUTION: Term Limits will break the cycle

If no one ever leaves, willingly anyway, what is the solution? Philadelphia 3.0 proposes a 3-Term Limit on City Council. Only term limits will bring new faces and ideas to City Hall.

It will mean Councilmembers will leave gracefully from office when they are done, breaking the current cycle of Councilmembers only leaving with a bag of cash, in a coffin, or in handcuffs.

Join the Movement



VOTE FOR City Council Democratic At Large: #84 Derek Green, #88 Tom Wyatt, #98 Isaiah Thomas

#changethecharter