

PHILADELPHIA 3.0

The case for term limits

#4: No one is qualified to get a different job

Term Limits will mean better candidates

FACT: From 1979 to today, spanning 36 years, only THREE City Councilmembers have ever left their term early to take a different job. Of the 13 Special Elections to fill Council seats since 1979, all have been filled by insiders like staffers or Ward leaders or people elected to another office. At the start of 2015, only FIVE Councilmembers had come from an actual previous career outside politics.

Philadelphia 3.0 believes City Council should have extraordinary people who others would want to hire.

But most people who have served on City Council in Philadelphia are not qualified to do anything else.

No one EVER wants to hire away City Councilmembers.

Only THREE times from since 1979 has a City Councilmember left their term early to take another job. Mayors, governors, or private companies have NEVER really seen fit to steal away a City Councilmember for a bigger or better leadership spot. It is not wonder they are so covetous of their jobs - they could not work anywhere else.

The system is not helping.

When a City Councilmember leaves part-way through a term because of death or arrest or running for higher office, a Special Election happens. It is up to the Ward leaders to name their replacement candidates, sometimes with input from the departing official. Not surprisingly, guess what happens? Of the 13 Special Elections held since 1979 to replace Councilmembers, all replacement candidates were insiders. SIX were Ward leaders who named themselves to run. FOUR were staffers for another Councilmember. THREE were already on City Council or held another elected position.

Today's Council is a case in point.

You only have to look at the current City Council to see how much of an insider's game it has become. THREE Councilmembers ran for Council as State Representatives. NINE have worked their entire career for another City Councilmember or in government. And Only FIVE have actually had a legitimate career outside of the insular circle of politics.

SOLUTION: Term Limits will mean better candidates

If City Councilmembers are rarely qualified enough to get any better job offers and gaps are filled with career political insiders, how do we change the game? Philadelphia 3.0 proposes a 3-Term Limit for City Council. As long as City Council just recycles through the same old cast of Ward leaders, staffers, and government employees with no other career experience, we are going to continue to get the same old outcomes.

Join the Movement



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

#changethecharter