

PHILADELPHIA 3.0

The case for term limits

#5: The job is way too cushy for anyone to leave Term Limits will mean a much more productive Council

FACT: The Home Rule Charter intended City Council to be paid \$9,000 per year in 1951. Today, City Council makes an average of \$126,000 per year for 32 days of work, all while serving 25% fewer residents than in 1951. And Councilmembers have much bigger staffs.

Philadelphia 3.0 believes City Council is paid for too much for what they accomplish.

Taxpayers pay City Council a full-time salary for a part-time job that is much easier than it was in 1951.

City Council gets paid far too much.

The original Home Rule Charter adopted in 1951 established the salary of City Council at \$9,000 per year (with the President getting a \$1,000 bump). In today's dollars, that is \$80,000 per year salary when adjusted for inflation and buying power. Yet today the average City Councilmember makes \$126,000 per year - a full 50% more than originally intended. This has not been by accident - over the years, City Council has given itself pay raise after pay raise to jack up their salary.

City Council has fewer people to serve.

When the original Home Rule Charter was adopted in 1951 the population of Philadelphia was just over 2,000,000 people - the largest it has ever been. Today, Philadelphia's population is about 1,525,000 people, 25% fewer than in 1951. That means City Councilmembers have to serve far fewer constituents. But guess what? That hasn't stopped them from making 50% more than they should be.

City Council only works 32 days a year, and needs staff to do it.

Not only is City Council a part-time position, Councilmembers typically only meet for full sessions 32 days per year. You cannot get any more part-time than that - it's a comfy gig for a \$126,000 per year salary. Only unlike 1951, today's City Council also has massive staffs, averaging EIGHT staff per Councilmember, or about one staff person for every 11,000 residents of Philadelphia.

SOLUTION: Term limits will mean a much more productive Council

Being a City Councilmember is a comfy job, but it shouldn't be! Councilmembers should be challenged to be effective and held accountable. But they aren't, so the quality of our representation doesn't improve.

Philadelphia 3.0 proposes a 3-Term limit for City Council. As long as City Council is an overpaid and underworked position, City Councilmembers will remain entrenched and never leave.

Join the Movement



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

#changethecharter