

# PHILADELPHIA 3.0

## My fellow Philadelphian,

We are writing you because we know you care as much about the future of this City as we do. And we believe that you are also aware that City Council has not been up to the task of improving our future. We are calling upon like-minded Philadelphians to take a stand against what some have called “The worst legislative body in the free world” and consider TERM LIMITS as the key to moving our city forward. Here are some things we think you should know:

### #1: No one ever leaves... willingly.

FACT: From 1979 to 2011, Philadelphia City Councilmembers were more likely to leave office because they took DROP (FOUR), died (FIVE), or got arrested (SIX) than leave office voluntarily. ***Philadelphia 3.0 believes elected office is a public service, not a lifetime appointment.*** But we all know that isn't how it works! 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 Councilmember simply decide to retire voluntarily. That is 3%! Yes, you read that right.

### #2: People serve for way too long.

FACT: At the start of 2015, SEVEN Councilmembers had already served over 12 years, and unsurprisingly tough policy choices have been deferred over that time. ***Philadelphia 3.0 believes twelve years is plenty of time to be on City Council.*** City Council elections are supposed to be a representative process, not the way to a lifetime appointment! But the last 12 years have looked eerily similar. SEVEN seats have been occupied by the same person. SEVEN seats have been occupied by two people. And only THREE seats have been occupied by three different people. When the faces don't change, why would the outcomes?

### #3: The system is rigged for incumbents.

FACT: In the last 16 years, only SIX incumbents have been beaten. ***Philadelphia 3.0 believes that the political system in Philadelphia is rigged for incumbents.*** So of course City Councilmembers are happy to keep it that way. Incumbents have run for reelection 137 times since 1979. Only 20 incumbents of those 137 got ousted, and many of them came into office through very low turnout special elections.

### SOLUTION: Term Limits will break this cycle.

If no one ever leaves and no one can be beat, what is the solution? ***Philadelphia 3.0 proposes a 3-Term Limit for City Council.*** Only term limits will bring new faces and ideas to City Hall. It will mean they will have time to learn, legislate and leave, breaking the current cycle of Councilmembers only moving on with a bag of cash, in a coffin, or in handcuffs.

**Thank you for consideration on these points,  
Philadelphia 3.0  
#changethecharter**

***Philadelphia 3.0 is an organization dedicated to bringing new voices into the city's political discussions, increasing civic participation, creating the conditions for new leaders to be elected, demonstrating the possibility for political change, and supporting those who step up to lead in their efforts to make smarter and better policy. Learn more at [www.Philadelphia3-0.org](http://www.Philadelphia3-0.org).***