

# PHILADELPHIA 3.0

## My fellow Philadelphian,

We are writing you again because we cannot stress enough how important a quality City Council is to the future of this City. 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 because the current system is failing us. Here are some things we think you should know:

### **#1: No one is qualified to get another job.**

FACT: From 1979 to today, only THREE City Councilmembers have ever left to take a better job. Of the 13 special elections to fill Council seats since 1979, every one has been filled by insiders such as staffers or Ward leaders or people in a different elected office. **Philadelphia 3.0 believes City Council should have extraordinary people who others want to hire.** But most people who have served on City Council in Philadelphia are not qualified to do anything else. Mayors, governors, and private companies have NEVER really seen fit to steal away a City Councilmember for a bigger or better leadership spot. Of the 13 special elections held since 1979 to replace members, all replacements were insiders.

### **#2: The job is way too easy for anyone to want to leave.**

FACT: The Home Rule Charter intended City Council to be a part-time job, paying \$9,000 per year in 1951 (\$80,000 per year in today’s dollars, adjusting for inflation). Today, City Council makes \$126,000 per year on average for the same 32 days of work. Additionally, in 1951 the population of Philadelphia was just over 2,000,000. Today, Philadelphia’s population is about 1,525,000 people, 25% fewer than in 1951. That means 58% more money for 25% fewer constituents. **Philadelphia 3.0 believes City Council is overpaid 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. This has not been by accident - over the years, City Council has given itself pay raise after pay raise.

### **#3: A bad Council has real consequences.**

FACT: In 2003, just 12 years ago, the UAL (Unfunded Actuarial Liability) of the Municipal Pensions was \$2.6 billion. Payments to cover the pension obligation were 7% of the City Budget. Today, the UAL of the Municipal Pension has more than doubled, hitting \$5.7 billion, payments to which are now 15% of the entire City Budget. **Philadelphia 3.0 believes City Council needs to have an open dialogue about the Pension Crisis.** Many of the Councilmembers who were in office in 2003 are still there. The inability of City Council to take on meaningful reform to stop the Municipal Pension Crisis will mean cuts to city services and higher taxes for all Philadelphians.

### **SOLUTION: Term Limits will mean a better Council.**

If City Councilmembers are underqualified, gaps are filled with political insiders, and legislative inaction is hurting us, how do we change the game? **Philadelphia 3.0 proposes a 3-Term Limit for City Council.** As long as City Council has the usual cast of characters year after year, we will continue to pay the price.

**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).***