

Sept. 5th, 2024 Public Hearing Comment

Say NO to Staggered Term Limits!

I am totally opposed to any staggered terms or other codified restrictions that limit people's choices in elections. We don't need staggered terms, because a method is already in place that allows voters to directly choose which candidates they want and for how long they should serve. It is called exercising your right to vote. In every election, people can choose whom they want to represent them and how long those elected candidates remain in office. These very important rights should not be taken away by the imposition of arbitrary voting regulations. Staggered terms are a two-edged sword. They limit the voter's ability to elect multiple good candidates in a single election and deny those same voters the "clean sweep" option to vote out an entire group of entrenched candidates, who might be blocking needed and necessary legislation that could help County government work better.

The argument that staggered terms will minimize the loss of "institutional memory" is also specious. In the last election, we saw neophyte Legislators hit the ground running, doing their due diligence homework and acting effectively on behalf of the people. But other Legislators, both new and old, 'work' (and I use the term advisedly) with a plodding indifference and/or a deliberate intent, disrupting the orderly process of government by blocking needed and necessary policy innovations and reforms.

Staggered terms are nothing more than a restriction that limits voters' options. The current system allows people to vote on all Legislators **in every election**. This ensures that the people decide on which candidates they want and for how long those candidates will hold office. These rights are too precious to lose. I hope many people will speak out to preserve these rights, and that their voices will be heard.

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