

## Special Meeting of SC Legislature: August 1, 2024

### Public Comment - No Staggered Terms or Term Limits Needed!

Due to the very short notice of the August 1<sup>st</sup> Special meeting, I cannot attend to speak against this term limit proposal, so I have written a public comment instead. I am totally opposed to any codified restrictions of term limits because a perfectly adequate method to regulate the duration of someone holding an elected position already exists. It is called voting. At every election, the people control the person and the tenure of those running for office by exercising the right to vote. With voting, people get to decide whom they want to represent them and for how long, not some arbitrary standard that cuts a candidate off without consideration of what the voters want. Staggered terms also create a situation where the voters have no option to keep a good team in office or conduct a “clean sweep” to effect a complete change in the way their government is being run.

In short, what we have with unfettered voting is the full ability of the people to express their preferences, without arbitrary restrictions on for whom they vote or how long they may serve. The argument that staggered terms will moderate the loss of “institutional memory” is specious. Since the last election we have all seen that some of the new Legislators hit the ground running, doing their due diligence homework and acting as agents of needed change, while other holdover Legislators continue with plodding indifference or worse deliberate intent to perpetuate harmful policies that block needed reforms and changes in the way County Government operates.

Leave the power with the people. They know what they want and with unfettered voting, they can choose whom they want to get it for them and for how long they may serve. Both rights are too precious to lose.

Star D. Hesse, Sullivan resident, taxpayer and Senior Legislative Action Committee member