

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED
PRIOR TO THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' SESSION
ON
THURSDAY, June 9, 2022
AT
10:00 A.M.

Questions, concerns or comments about these items can be directed
to staff or the Commissioners by contacting the Commissioners' office at

(503) 434-7501

OR

BOCINFO@co.yamhill.or.us

Carolina Rook

From: Michael Barton <bartonincarlton@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 4:01 PM
To: Mary Starrett; Lindsay Berschauer; Casey Kulla; BOC Info
Subject: Public Comment: Term limits

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

Yamhill County Commissioners:

Mary Starrett

Lindsay Berschauer

Casey Kulla

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal to eliminate term limits for certain Yamhill County elected offices.

You may recall that the modern incarnation of term limits was a 1990s political wedge issue, introduced to deliver a short-term advantage to one political party. Today, the disadvantages of term limits are apparent to most voters.

The question is: What to do about it?

Options are limited in Yamhill County because control over term limits has been ceded to voters. Term limit initiatives were on the ballot twice. Because of the extensive precedent, it's simply too late for Yamhill County Commissioners to take control of this issue away from voters.

The most viable solution is another ballot initiative. To pass, it would need support from both the Republican and Democrat parties. Political leaders would have the opportunity to speak with one voice on an impactful issue, which would be good for voters. If Republican party leaders come out early with new messaging, there is every reason to believe the next ballot initiative will eliminate term limits for professional elected offices, such as Clerk, Treasurer and Sheriff.

Term limits for Yamhill County Commissioners seem to be widely popular. County Commissioners are different because you have executive roles and you don't need professional credentials. To pass, I think a ballot initiative would need to retain term limits for Commissioners.

If voters don't eliminate term limits in the next ballot initiative, then critical departments probably need upgraded capabilities. For example, term-limited County offices may need larger unelected professional staffs who can maintain continuity. Voters may be saying they want departments to function efficiently with novice elected officials or temporarily vacant elected offices. Maybe voters feel the cost is worth it. Upgraded capabilities can be justified because of Yamhill County growth, not just term limits. The complexity and difficulty of departmental functions has increased, as have citizen expectations.

Ballot initiatives and potential cost increases may seem like messy solutions, but they're the cost of fixing a bad idea without creating additional negative consequences. Living with voter decisions is part of the job.

We shouldn't be surprised that a wedge issue, such as term limits, resulted in bad government policies. By definition, a wedge breaks things to make them weaker. We're paying the cost of term limits 30 years later. That's why voters are better served when County Commissioners and other local politicians resist the temptation to get involved in wedge issue politics.

Is this the type of feedback you wanted?

Thank you for your service.

--

Regards,

Mike Barton
Carlton, OR
503-864-4230

Carolina Rook

From: Timothy Storey <storey.ts@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 10:40 PM
To: BOC Info
Subject: County Term Limits

Spam

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

Yamhill County Board of Commissioners,

I oppose the Board unilaterally removing term limits for their own positions. I understand the legal issue with the current statute we have being deemed unconstitutional, but there is no reason to have the commission bring this issue up now.

I understand the County Clerk is resigning half way through his last term to take a position elsewhere in the state, and that the term limits are part of that decision. He knew the about the term limits before he ran for his last term, and should not have ran if he was not willing to complete the term.

I also understand that the remaining elected county officials brought the issue to the board. They also have a vested interest to remove term limits for their own offices, so they are not speaking from a purely altruistic place.

My preference for the Board is to just close the matter and leave it as it is. If an elected official in the future decides to fight this, the voters will understand that the official is going against the will of the voters.

If the Board decides to take this up, despite the conflict of interest involved, they should refer it back to the voters. Legal or not. This Board has already put ordinances on the County books that they knowingly violated the state Constitution and did it unilaterally, not letting the voters decide.

Any removal of term limits, at the very least, should exclude past or current office holders. This will eliminate any apparent conflict and current office holders should pledge to not do anything to influence the decision one way or the other.

Thank you,
Timothy Storey
Hillsboro (the portion that is in Yamhill County)

Carolina Rook

From: Mary Starrett
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2022 10:32 PM
To: BOC Info
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment: Term limits

Mary Starrett
Yamhill County Commissioner

Begin forwarded message:

From: Michael Barton <bartonincarlton@gmail.com>
Date: June 4, 2022 at 4:01:37 PM PDT
To: Mary Starrett <starrettm@co.yamhill.or.us>, Lindsay Berschauer <berschauerl@co.yamhill.or.us>, Casey Kulla <kullac@co.yamhill.or.us>, BOC Info <bocinfo@co.yamhill.or.us>
Subject: **Public Comment: Term limits**

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

Yamhill County Commissioners:

Mary Starrett
Lindsay Berschauer
Casey Kulla

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Thank you for your service.

--

Regards,

Mike Barton
Carlton, OR
503-864-4230

Carolina Rook

From: David Rush <rush.david@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 5:24 PM
To: BOC Info
Subject: term limits

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

Let's keep the term limits so we don't end up like Clackamas County has with incompetent people running again and again.

David Rush
McMinnville, OR

Carolina Rook

From: Eleanor Fuhrer <eleanor4dar@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 5:34 PM
To: BOC Info
Subject: Term limits

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

Regarding term limits, I believe the professional officers, Sheriff, Clerk, Treasurer and Assessor should NOT have term limits. Their experience is valuable and if they are not performing their jobs to satisfaction, then we have the ballot.

However, the Commissioners should definitely be limited. We don't need professional politicians.

Eleanor Fuhrer
15654 SW Shilo Way
McMinnville, OR 97128

Carolina Rook

From: jay winchester <jay_winchester@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 5:58 PM
To: BOC Info
Subject: Term limits

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

We seem to have a very active group of farmers and timber unity folks who will only endorse the far right to protect their wants, and could care less what the average citizen wants. We are a country divided and need term limits for all elected officials. Surely there must be some other puppets they could entice to run and back with huge campaign funds for their partisan interests. WE NEED TERM LIMITS. LET US VOTE ON IT!

Carolina Rook

From: Joe Kathy Medeiros <kathyandjoemedeiros@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 6:49 PM
To: BOC Info
Subject: Term limits

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

It is my understanding that the people of Yamhill county voted for term limits for our elected officials. For the commissioners to decide to change the rules already in place is not what the voters of Yamhill county want. The commissioners should not be allowed to make changes like this without a ballot initiative. Put the decision back to the people of Yamhill county and we can vote on making a change to term limits.

Sincerely, Kathleen Medeiros

Amity Oregon

Carolina Rook

From: Kenneth Joa <kennethjoa@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 6:56 PM
To: BOC Info
Subject: Term limits

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

Keep term limits.

Carolina Rook

From: Dianne Gluskoter <degluskoter@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 9:05 PM
To: BOC Info
Subject: Keep term limits

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

To Yamhill County Commissioners:

Please keep the term limits, it prevents an abuse of power. You were all elected to serve a maximum of 3 terms, and there is no reason to change this by repealing Ordinance 587. Doing so would be an abuse of the power of your office, as well as negating the democratic process that allows for fair government.

Dianne Gluskoter
McMinnville

Carolina Rook

From: steddiehoward <steddiehoward@protonmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 7:19 AM
To: BOC Info
Subject: re: Term Limits

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

Commissioners of Yamhill County,

My understanding is term limits, on County Commissioners specifically, was ruled unconstitutional, according to Oregon's Constitution, in Douglas County, May 16 of 2016.

I believe common sense indicates that ruling could be applied to other elected county officials like the County Clerk, the Sheriff, and the Assessor.

If term limits have been found unconstitutional in Douglas County it would make sense the term limits on Yamhill County Commissioners, and by extension other publicly elected county officials, would be found to be unconstitutional as well.

If this is the case then I ask that you revoke term limits on publicly elected officials, County Commissioners, County Clerk, County Sheriff, and the County Assessor rather than invite a potential legal challenge to the current limits, and the costs associated with that challenge.

Sincerely,

Steve Howard
7825 NE Highway 240
Yamhill, OR 97148

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

Carolina Rook

From: gailpucci <gailpucci@rocketmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 7:24 AM
To: BOC Info
Subject: term limits

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

I support terms limits as they currently stand. I especially do not want to see term limits dropped for County Commissioners.

Gail Pucci
McMinnville

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Carolina Rook

From: Alex P <canterlandfarm@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 7:31 AM
To: BOC Info
Subject: Term limits

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

I don't see the need for term limits since we vote every four years for these people and if we don't like them we vote them out

Carolina Rook

From: Mary Starrett
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 8:24 AM
To: BOC Info
Subject: Fwd: term limits

Mary Starrett
Yamhill County Commissioner

Begin forwarded message:

From: charris1@frontier.com
Date: June 8, 2022 at 8:10:28 AM PDT
To: Lindsay Berschauer <berschauerl@co.yamhill.or.us>, Mary Starrett <starrettm@co.yamhill.or.us>, Casey Kulla <kullac@co.yamhill.or.us>
Cc: letters@newsregister.com
Subject: term limits

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

While I would certainly like to see certain commissioners term-limited out, I'm going to put my partisan views aside and say that there should be no term limits—if voters don't like someone, they always have the option of voting for the opponent. My only hope is that the current commissioners would do likewise—put their partisan views aside and do what is best for the county, not what is best for themselves.

Charlie Harris
19400 NE Jaquith Rd., Newberg
charris1@frontier.com

Carolina Rook

From: linken9@frontier.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 6:24 PM
To: BOC Info
Subject: Fw: Failure Notice

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

I feel very strongly that it is harmful to the efficiency and effectiveness of county government to have essential functions at the mercy of uninformed/unaware voters. The vital positions of county clerk, assessor, treasurer and sheriff involve duties requiring experience, skills and attributes that are poorly--if at all--understood by the average citizen. These positions should be permanent full-time employees, subject to administrative hiring, review and termination according to standard employee policy and procedure. (Clackamas County's clerk is a sorry example of a continuous failure being reelected by numb voters when she should be employed--and fired!)

However, since under general law operation, these four positions are elected, they should NOT have term limits--forcing worthy, high-functioning individuals out when a calendar says.

Example: the county clerk. For the past 10 years we have been graced with an individual who not only has corrected major problems left by his predecessor but also has reshaped almost every aspect of operation into a model of efficiency and productivity. Most notable, his efforts have produced a remarkably flawless election operation that supports voter confidence in the most basic element of citizen participation and determination. However, due to term limits his service has to end. Sadly, with end of his term approaching and the essential need to protect his family, he has accepted a full-time position with another county--and will be leaving early. Yamhill County will be exceptionally lucky to have his equal elected in November. If unlucky, the replacement will make shambles of the duties and responsibilities. Maybe Clackamas County's Sheri Hall?

This very sad state of affairs would not be necessary if term limits were removed--which legally they should be.

This is NOT a matter for voters. This is the responsibility of commissioners to follow judicial mandate to make the county legally compliant--while at the same time removing a major obstacle to the continuing efficient, effective conduct of essential government operations.

I remind the commissioners that you have assumed the role of leaders, and I ask that you lead!

Ken Dollinger
533 SW Brockwood Avenue
McMinnville, OR 97128
503-709-3702

Carolina Rook

From: Roxane Henderson <henderson.trmc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 8:49 PM
To: BOC Info
Subject: Ordinance 587

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

I'm in favor of repealing the ordinance for positions held by the Assessor, County Clerk, County Treasurer, and Sheriff. These positions can be very complex and take years of experience to properly manage. Isn't it beneficial to the citizens of Yamhill County to retain this kind of experience in these positions without putting a cap on it?

I support the electing of these positions, but they shouldn't be held to a limit.

Roxane Henderson

Carolina Rook

From: Arnie&Susan Hollander/Watkins <maczenith@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 9:22 PM
To: BOC Info
Subject: Term Limits

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

To: County Commissioners

Conclusion: Term limits must apply to county commissioners and those other county officials who currently have term limits.

Of particular note:

1. I did not vote for County Commissioners to remain in office for an unlimited amount of time. For our current commissioners to be able to change the duration of their tenure without a vote of the people is a sheer conflict of interest. If the county commissioners want to have their term limits erased, then they must put this change up for a vote in a general or special election.
2. Commissioners need to be changed periodically so that new voices, new ideas, representation of new residents can be heard by elected officials, particularly county commissioners.
3. Leave the term limits of 12 years (3 election cycles) for county officials who are currently term limited. Alternately, put those positions under the authority of a chief county administrator and allow that person to hire and fire those people based on their performance.

Respectfully submitted,

Arnie Hollander

13440 SW McCabe Chapel Road
McMinnville, OR 97128

Carolina Rook

From: April Bacewich <bacewich@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 10:50 PM
To: BOC Info
Subject: Term Limits

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

Yamhill Commissioners-

As a policy, term limits are essential and I strongly agree!!

As a law, apparently this ordinance is illegal, therefore, let's put forth a motion to remove.

I also do agree with Lindsey on the technical positions, loosing a lot of seasoned expertise "Just because" it has been a set amount of time, seems illogical.

Regards,
April Bacewich
Newberg
Sent from my iPhone

Carolina Rook

From: Deirdre Errand <4deirdre@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 9, 2022 12:12 AM
To: BOC Info
Subject: Ending Term Limits

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

This is the most self-serving idea being proposed by & for County elected officials in a very long time. Why does the Assessor, County Clerk, County Treasurer & Sheriff think they are so important that they shouldn't be held accountable to anyone to keep their jobs? I object to the fundamental proposal that these positions & possibly more, have no term limits. Are there going to be political appointments to all previously elected positions next? If invoked, this proposal will lead people to see our County & it's officials as leaning in the direction questionable ethics.

Stop this idea of eliminating term limits, we should continue the current procedure of electing these officials.

Mike & Deirdre Errand
509 NE Yamhill St.
Sheridan, OR 97378

Carolina Rook

From: jimdhmc <jimdhmc@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 9, 2022 7:05 AM
To: BOC Info
Subject: Oppose ending term limits.

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

I am a resident of McMinnville and I oppose ending term limits.

Jim James

Carolina Rook

From: Zorissa James <zorissaj@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 9, 2022 7:07 AM
To: BOC Info
Subject: Term limits

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

It is my opinion that we continue term limits.

Zorissa James McMinnville Oregon.

Carolina Rook

From: Jill Zarnowitz <jillz.markh@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 9, 2022 7:44 AM
To: BOC Info
Subject: Term limits

[This email originated outside of Yamhill County]

Dear Commissioners,

We support lifting term limits for county elected officials that require specialized expertise, such as assessor and law enforcement. We oppose lifting term limits for county commissioners, as these positions should be flexible to the changing times and don't require specialized expertise, just the willingness to serve the public at large.

Thank you,
Jill Zarnowitz
Mark Huff
7930 NE Blackburn Rd
Yamhill, OR 97148