

Downtown Independent Democrats

BLOOMBERG'S PROPOSALS TO REVISE CITY CHARTER

In the general election on November 2 (not this September's Democratic Primary election), voters will revisit Term Limits, as well as a bundle of other issues packed into two controversial proposed City Charter amendments drafted by a Charter Revision Commission, whose members are all appointed by Mayor Bloomberg.

The first yes/no question asks voters whether to reinstate term limits for City offices to two terms, from the current three terms that was enacted last year by the City Council.

A very powerful mayor's office can easily overpower neophyte councilmembers. Restricting the Council to two terms is putting further power into the mayor's hands.

However, should the electorate vote for a return to a two-term limit, the proposal paradoxically would allow the "Bloomberg amendment" to continue for incumbents. Incumbents would still be given three terms, again defeating the will of the people.

Another section of this yes/no question would bar the City Council from altering the term-limit rules in the future. Well, the courts have already affirmed the Council's ability to rewrite term limits - no matter what the Charter says.

We urge you to vote NO on Question #1 in November.

The second yes/no question on the ballot would shoehorn campaign financing, conflicts-of-interest, zoning, ballot access, voter-assistance functions, City tribunal and advisory-body administration, and other issues into another single yes/no vote.

Our executive committee was unanimous in feeling that the mayor's hasty rewriting of the Charter was a flawed procedure. Combining so many important issues into a yes/no question doesn't help.

We urge you to vote NO on Question #2.

Vote NO on both Charter proposals. They aren't reforms. Send the Commission back to do its homework.

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