

Communication from Public

Name: Community member

Date Submitted: 08/07/2026 02:15 PM

Council File No: 24-0867

Comments for Public Posting: ****Re: Council File 24-0867 — Neighborhood Council Term Limits**** As a Los Angeles community member, I strongly oppose imposing mandatory term limits on Neighborhood Council board members. Los Angeles City government is complex, and it can take time for a volunteer Neighborhood Council member to become familiar with how City departments, processes, budgets, Council offices, and policies work. As members build experience and institutional knowledge, they are often able to become more effective advocates for their community, which is something worth recognizing when considering term limits. That does not strengthen Neighborhood Councils. It weakens them. Neighborhood Council members are volunteers, and their communities already have the ability to decide who should represent them through elections. If voters want new representatives, they can elect them. If they believe an experienced board member continues to represent them effectively, they should have the right to reelect that person. Institutional memory is not a problem to be eliminated; it is one of the things that allows Neighborhood Councils to navigate City government effectively and advocate meaningfully for their communities. Unlike candidates for City Council, Neighborhood Council candidates generally do not have large campaign organizations or fundraising operations that give incumbents an overwhelming advantage. The barrier to greater participation is not simply that experienced members remain in office. In many communities, the much larger problem is finding people willing to devote substantial unpaid time to a system that often appears to have very little influence over City decisions. If the City genuinely wants more Angelenos to serve on Neighborhood Councils, it should give Neighborhood Councils a more meaningful role in City government. Allow Neighborhood Councils, when a significant number agree on an issue, to collectively initiate consideration of a Council File. Give them meaningful ways to obtain information from City departments. Provide Neighborhood Councils with opportunities to present their positions before decisions have effectively been made, rather than limiting their participation to a brief public comment. Most importantly, demonstrate that their advice matters. Neighborhood Council members spend countless volunteer hours attending

meetings, studying complicated issues, listening to constituents, preparing Community Impact Statements, and traveling to City Hall to represent their communities. Yet too often their recommendations appear to receive little consideration. There have even been occasions when Neighborhood Council representatives have traveled to City Hall, waited to speak on behalf of their communities, and were never called to the podium. The City Charter created the Neighborhood Council system to promote public participation and make City government more responsive to local communities. If Los Angeles wants stronger Neighborhood Councils and greater participation, the answer is not to remove experienced volunteers simply because they have served for a certain number of years. Give Neighborhood Councils greater respect, meaningful access, and a genuine voice in City government. When Angelenos see that serving on a Neighborhood Council provides a real opportunity to influence decisions affecting their communities, more people will want to participate, and there will naturally be greater competition for seats. Please do not impose mandatory term limits on Neighborhood Council members. Let communities decide through their elections who should represent them.