



This November, Term Limits for Mayor and City Council are on the ballot for Highland Park Voters



1. This ballot question concerns term limits for Highland Park Mayor and City Council only. *It does not affect any other elected body in Highland Park, or County, State or National offices.*

2. The proposal would limit people serving as Council Members or Mayor to *a total of 8 years - two four-year terms (ten years if the first term was a partial one)*. It would also prevent an official from serving eight years, leaving office for one or more terms, and later returning to run again.

* **A YES vote** means you want to create term limits.

* **A NO vote** means you want to keep the current system as it is.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization. While we never support or oppose candidates or political parties, we do speak out on issues where the League has conducted thorough study and adopted an official position. Following is official position of **the League of Women Voters on term limits.**

"In 1991, the League announced its opposition to term limits for members of the US Congress on the grounds that such limits would adversely affect the accountability, representativeness, and effective performance of Congress and, by decreasing the power of Congress, upset the balance of power between Congress and an already powerful presidency. The 1992 Convention reaffirmed opposition to term limits and authorized state and local Leagues

to use national positions to take action on term limits for state and local offices."

In the position, they argue that disqualifying experienced lawmakers makes government less effective, less accountable, and less representative and ask the following:

"Should voters always have the option to re-elect an effective leader, or should leadership change be required after a certain number of terms?"

Questions about Experience

How important is experience when serving as mayor or council member? Following are charts of past tenures for Mayor and for Council, to help you decide this question.

MAYOR			
Mayor	Years	Start	Stop
Geraci	5	1970	1975
Buhai	12	1975	1987
Pierce	8	1987	1995
Geraci	4	1995	1999
Pierce	4	1999	2003
Belsky	8	2003	2011
Rotering	15	2011	2026
Average Tenure: 11 Years			

CITY COUNCIL								
Council	Years	Start	Stop		Council	Years	Start	Stop
Koukos	10	1993	2001		Kaufman	10	2011	2021
Mandel	19	1993	2012		Naftzger	3	2011	2014
Belsky	8	1995	2003		Stone	12	2013	2025
Weinger	4	1997	2001		Knobel	8	2013	2021
Brenner	16	1989	2005		holleman	9	2014	2023
Kirsch	12	2001	2013		Stolberg	6	2017	2023
Barnes	4	2001	2005		Lidawer	5	2021	2026
Silberman	8	2003	2011		Tapia	5	2021	2026
Levenfeld	8	2003	2011		Ross	3	2023	2026
Olian	6	2005	2011		Hoobler	1	2023	2024
Rotering	2	2009	2011		Bruckman	2	2024	2026
Blumberg	15	2011	2026		Center	1	2025	2026
Frank	5	2011	2016					
		Average Tenure: 7.3 Years						

Digging into Term Limits at a local level:

Approximately 5% to 9% of U.S. municipalities with populations under 40,000 use term limits for their mayors and city councils.

Term limits are far more common in larger metropolitan areas. Roughly **51% of large U.S. cities** (populations over 250,000) limit mayoral terms.

Successive vs. Absolute Limits: Where limits do exist in smaller municipalities, they are often restricted to *successive* terms (e.g., maximum two or three consecutive terms before a mandatory break) rather than lifetime absolute bans. The local ballot measure creates a lifetime ban.

The following information reflects Highland Park’s Consolidated and General Election data provided by the Lake County Clerk’s office. It includes the total number of registered voters and the number of ballots cast in the last three Consolidated (Spring) elections—2021, 2023, and 2025—as well as in the last three General (November) elections—2020, 2022, and 2024.

HP VOTER TURNOUT FOR ELECTIONS 2020- 2026				
YEAR	TYPE	# REGISTERED VOTERS	# VOTES CAST	% VOTES CAST
2020	General	25,398	19,617	77%
2021	Consolidated	24,587	3,757	15%
2022	General	24,127	15,660	65%
2023	Consolidated	24,118	5,172	21%
2024	General	24,199	18,825	78%
2025	Consolidated	23,911	5,680	24%

Data from the most recent three election cycles show that voter turnout in Spring/Consolidated Elections is significantly lower than in General Elections. Our local League of Women Voters believes that increasing participation in these Spring elections would lead to outcomes that accurately reflect community priorities and help create natural limits on who is elected to local office. Our organization maintains that when community members consistently vote in local elections, the electoral process itself provides a natural check on the length of time any individual serves in office.

*What a YES or NO Vote Means for term limits for the Highland Park Mayor and City Council **only***

A **YES** vote means you want to create term limits.

A **NO** vote means you want to keep the current system as it is.

Please share this information on social media or by forwarding this letter to your Highland Park friends, family, and neighbors.

This letter is available on our League's website:

<https://my.lwv.org/illinois/highland-park-highwood>

Respectfully,

LWV HP-HWD Leadership Team: Jean Sogin, Nancy Goldberg, Marlene Senescu, Ginger Seff, Elaine Adler, Janet Krehbiel, Rose Feder, Judy Miller