



# Allegheny County Council

County of Allegheny  
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## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 12637-23, **Version:** 1

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An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, directing that a referendum question regarding the amendment of Article III, §5(b) of the Home Rule Charter of Allegheny County, which places term limits on only the Chief Executive, be placed on the November 7, 2023 General Election ballot.

**Whereas**, Article III, §5(b) of the Home Rule Charter of Allegheny County establishes that “[t]he Chief Executive shall be limited to three consecutive terms of office.”; and

**Whereas**, no provision of the Charter places term limits upon any other elected officer of the County; and

**Whereas**, it is the judgment of Council that imposing more stringent term limitations upon the Chief Executive than upon any other elected County officer serves no meaningful purpose; and

**Whereas**, as noted in the Preamble to the Home Rule Charter of Allegheny County, goals of the conversion to a home rule form of government included better representation of the diversity of the County’s residents, better access to County government, leadership, vision, efficiency, accountability, and improving the public’s trust in County government; and

**Whereas**, in the judgment of Council, all of these goals would be better served by providing for periodic turnover in County elected office; and

**Whereas**, incumbent elected officials have access to public forums, media coverage, and fundraising opportunities that are disproportionately greater than that afforded to individuals who do not hold elected office, all of which places incumbents at a distinct advantage when seeking re-election; and

**Whereas**, it is finally the judgment of Council that the three consecutive term limitation imposed upon the Chief Executive is both an equitable and rational means of allowing for extended public service by qualified individuals, while expanding access to elected office for other qualified individuals who wish to serve in that capacity;

***The Council of the County of Allegheny hereby enacts as follows:***

***SECTION 1.        Incorporation of the Preamble.***

The provisions set forth in the preamble to this Ordinance are incorporated by reference in their entirety herein.

***SECTION 2.        Ballot Question.***

Pursuant to the Second Class County Charter Law and the Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law, the Allegheny County Board of Elections is hereby directed to place the following question on the November 7, 2023 General Election Ballot for consideration and approval by the registered electors of the County:

Shall Article III, Subsection 5(b) of Allegheny County's Home Rule Charter be amended to provide that no elected County official may serve more than three full terms in any one elected County office?

**SECTION 3.        Effective Date.**

The provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon final approval.

**SECTION 4.   Severability.    *If any provision of this Ordinance shall be determined to be unlawful, invalid, void or unenforceable, then that provision shall be considered severable from the remaining provisions of this Ordinance which shall be in full force and effect.***

**SECTION 5.   Repealer.    *Any Resolution or Ordinance or part thereof conflicting with the provisions of this Ordinance is hereby repealed so far as the same affects this Ordinance.***