

Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Measure S1

The desire of current school board members to eliminate term limits is based on a misunderstanding of how our term limits work.

Their argument states, "Albany Unified operates under the city charter, which limits school board members to only two consecutive four-year terms." That is misleading. School board members are eligible to serve an unlimited number of four-year terms. All that is required is that they take a break of at least two years after every eight years of consecutive service. Incumbent expertise is not lost.

A break every eight years has real benefits. It lets outgoing board members relax and recharge. It also creates openings for new board members and the fresh ideas they bring. It's no coincidence that this election year, with no incumbents running, there are four candidates for two open seats on the school board.

Current school board members want to prove their sincerity by not having term limits eliminated until January 1, 2023, claiming none would be eligible to run before then. But under our existing term limits, three current board members will be eligible to run again before January 1, 2023.

During the 41 years since Albany voters approved term limits, the school district has achieved a well-deserved reputation for excellence. Albany's term limits have played a part in that success because they strike the right balance between stability and change. Our current term limits are working well. They should be retained.

Please vote NO on Measure S1.

Michael Barnes, City Council Member, Former School Board Member

Allan Maris, Former Board of Education, Former Albany Mayor

Jim Lindsay, Former School Board Member

David Farrell, Former School Board Member

Margaret Stanzione, Albany Resident