Argument Against Ending BOE Term Limits

Albany's term limits have served our community well for more than 40 years. They are not broken, and they don't need to be fixed.

Under our current plan, Board members may serve an UNLIMITED number of four-year terms. After serving a maximum of eight consecutive years, elected officials must take a two-year sabbatical. Then they may run again and again, serving 16 years out of 18, 24 years out of 28, etc. Albany's term limits are very generous to incumbents. They also provide opportunity for non-incumbents to get elected.

Term limits apply to both the Board of Education and to Council. Council has no interest in ending term limits for itself.

It's important to know that a Board member's role is neither managerial nor technical. A Board member doesn't need to spend years gaining expertise in arcane aspects of the district's business. Those are roles of the superintendent and staff. The Board member's job is to provide policy direction and represent the values and interests of Albany's diverse community. After a few years of experience, most Board members are effective in their job.

School boards function best when the Board members represent a variety of perspectives, and when some have children at various grades in our schools. The experience of a kindergarten parent is vastly different from that of a high school parent. Without term limits, the Board is much more likely to be dominated by incumbents, and eventually by those who no longer have children in Albany schools.

Albany's excellent schools were created in part by the many residents who were able to be elected, and took the time to serve. Term limits encourage this. They are a tradition that deserves to be maintained. Vote NO on Measure ___.

Michael Barnes, Council Member and Former School Board Member

Joyce A. Jackson, Parent, Former Mayor

Allan Maris, Former Mayor and Former School Board Member

David Farrell, Former School Board President

Farid Javandel, Former Mayor

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