



A New Alternative City Council Election Plan

by Councilman Charlie Winburn
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The Winburn Plan

It's not complicated:

Candidates for City Council would be elected and serve for **one five-year term**, not two four-year terms being proposed.

After the term expires, the Council Member must take a **mandatory five-year hiatus** before being eligible to serve again.

The Winburn Plan

This plan with its five-year terms also applies to the Mayor's office.

Council Members and the Mayor may run for each other's position during their time off.

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Top 9 Reasons this plan is exactly what Cincinnati needs:

- I. **Reduced Election Cost**: Campaign fundraising efforts account for hundreds of thousands of dollars every two years. **The Winburn Plan** increases the length of time between elections, saving citizens and candidates money.

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- 2. More Election Accountability:** Five-year terms would reduce county and city staff time currently spent monitoring election reports every two years. This results in savings for the taxpayer and increased time to analyze the reports, equaling greater election accountability.

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- 3. No Election Games:** Five-year terms would eliminate almost all election and political games as we currently know them. A five-year term councilmember would not spend precious time attempting to capture media or voter attention every two years.

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- 4. No Political Entrenchment:** Five-year terms would reduce the number of consecutive years a councilmember has on city council and includes a provision to recall councilmembers who fail to do their job. Additionally, every five years Cincinnati voters get a brand new city council with no elected incumbents.

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- 5. No Political Games:** Five-year terms would create a more cohesive and cooperative mayor and city council model, reducing unnecessary bickering and political backtracking.

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- 6. Clear City Goals:** A five-year term would create the opportunity for nine members and the mayor to take the first 3-6 months to put together a leadership agenda and work cooperatively towards those goals and objectives to improve the quality of life for all Cincinnati citizens in their remaining time serving the public.

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- 7. Better City Decisions:** A five-year term councilmember would have the opportunity to spend considerable time on thoughtful discussion without coming to hasty, emotional conclusions on issues such as the budget, public safety, or city and county consolidation issues.

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- 8. Clear City Progress:** The mayor and city council would have greater stability and the opportunity to successfully see city projects completed, especially relative to budget, economic development, job creation and increased homeownership.

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- 9. Stronger, More Experienced Leadership:** This paves the way for a new executive mayor, also limited to one five-year term. After a five-year term, a mayor, he/she could run for a term on city council, bringing leadership experience to that body and vice-versa, increasing quality of government overall.

Current Election Plan Proposals

To answer a question you're all thinking, YES, I do support a model based on two four-year terms for city council.

However, I believe that **The Winburn Plan** picks up the slack that other plans don't account for.

Comparative Analysis

Two four-year terms

One five-year term

If elected, the candidate will serve a total of 8 years: that's 3 additional years.

If elected, the candidate will serve a total of 5 years, without the extra 3 years.

Approximate salary:
 $\$63,000 \text{ per year} \times 8 \text{ years} = \$504,000$

Approximate salary:
 $\$63,000 \text{ per year} \times 5 \text{ years} = \$315,000$

Extensive campaign finance monitoring

More manageable monitoring, greater accountability

Campaign costs every four years, and a higher election cost each time

Campaign costs every ten years at a lesser amount

Caps on campaign contributions

No contribution caps

Four-year hiatus after two four-year consecutive terms

Five-year hiatus period after one five-year term

No recall provisions for council members

Recall provisions for council members

Conclusion

I plan to ask the City Solicitor to draft an ordinance establishing five-year terms for City Council Members.

If approved by the voters, it would take effect in 2013.

Questions?