Patrick Monette-Shaw

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January 30, 2026
Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Raphael Mandelman, President of the Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Connie Chan, Supervisor, District 1
The Honorable Stephen Sherrill, Supervisor, District 2
The Honorable Danny Sauter, Supervisor, District 3
The Honorable Alan Wong, Supervisor, District 4
The Honorable Bilal Mahmood, District 5
The Honorable Matt Dorsey, Supervisor, District 6
The Honorable Myrna Melgar, District 7
The Honorable Jackie Fielder, Supervisor, District 9
The Honorable Shamann Walton, Supervisor, District 10
The Honorable Chyanne Chen, District 11
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: **Testimony on File 251245, Charter Amendment - Lifetime Term Limits for Mayor and Members of the Board of Supervisors – Oppose**

Dear President Mandelman and Board of Supervisors,

Regarding File #**251245,** ***Charter Amendment - Lifetime Term Limits for Mayor and Members of the Board of Supervisors***, I urge the Board of Supervisors **not** to place this proposed Charter amendment on the June 2, 2026 ballot.

It is an entirely undemocratic intrusion amounting to blatant political interference in San Francisco's democratic system of government, perhaps designed to punish a **single** former Ssupervisor.

The initial principal sponsor of this proposed ballot measure is first-term District 5 Supervisor Bilal Mahmood, a known c**arpetbagger**. District 5 voters will remember this betrayal when Mahmood faces reelection in a couple of years.

As rightly noted by political observers, Mahmood is heavily financed by tech-backed "*astroturf networks*" such as **GrowSF** and **TogetherSF**, that aim to undermine progressive, grassroots political voices in San Francisco. Rather than serving the needs of long-term residents, Mahmood is relying on undisclosed "*dark money*" from tech elites — such as Gary Tan, a self-described super-rich *centimillionaire* having $100 million or more in liquid net assets — to create the appearance of grassroots support to wrongly place this anti-democratic measure on the ballot.

Currently, the Mayor is allowed to serve no more than two successive four-year terms — but there is no limit or restriction on **non**-successive terms a former mayor may serve following a break in service. Likewise, there is no limit or restriction on **non**-successive terms a former Supervisor may serve following at least four years after expiration of a second successive term in office as a City supervisor.

After a Mayor or Supervisors has left office for at least four years, they are then eligible to serve as Mayor or Supervisor again for two successive four-year terms. §2.101. of the City Charter was updated 13 years ago in November 2012 under "*Prop. D*" placed on the ballot by the Board of Supervisors with 83% approval of voters. "Prop. D" **extended** the then existing language to allow supervisors to continue serving additional four-years terms following a break in service, a long-standing provision that had been in effect for a decade, or perhaps multiple decades. It doesn't need to be suddenly changed now.

Weirdly, this proposal for the June 2026 ballot measure would create a carve out for any person who is elected as a Supervisor at the election on June 2, 2026 to complete their new term of elected office — regardless of whether their holding the office would otherwise violate the lifetime term limit. Why is this carve-out necessary?

As it is, there are currently **no** term limits on the number of consecutive terms for candidates for San Francisco's City

Attorney, District Attorney, Assessor-Recorder, Treasurer, Sheriff, and Public Defender, and no "**lifetime**" term limits for any of those six elected officials. This proposed ballot measure seems to be selective lawmaking for only members of San Francisco's "**legislative branch**" and a single "**Executive Branch**" elected official! Of interest, former Louise Renne served **four**, four-year terms as San Francisco's City Attorney, holding the position for 16 years.

Changing the current two-term limits for the office of Mayor and the office of Member of the Board of Supervisors from consecutive term limits to **lifetime term limits** is clearly an astroturf network attack on San Francisco's democratic and participatory form of government that has heretofore worked well for multiple decades!

The Board of Supervisors should reject placing this unnecessary measure on the ballot! There's no need to be mucking up the municipal ballot, particularly to suddenly change long-standing precedents our electorate have previously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/
Patrick Monette-Shaw
Columnist/Reporter
Westside Observer Newspaper

cc: Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board
Alisa Somera, Legislative Deputy Director, Clerk of the Board's Office