

December 11, 2008

To: City Council Members Who Voted For Term Limits

Maria del Carmen Arroyo	Sara Gonzalez	Joel Rivera
Maria Baez	Robert Jackson	James Sanders, Jr.
Leroy Comrie, Jr.	Melinda Katz	Larry Seabrook
Inez Dickens	G. Oliver Koppell	Helen Sears
Erik Martin Dilan	Miguel Martinez	Kendall Stewart
Simcha Felder	Darlene Mealy	James Vacca
Lewis Fidler	Michael Nelson	Peter Vallone, Jr.
Helen Foster	Christine Quinn	Al Vann
Alan Gerson	Domenic Recchia, Jr.	Thomas White, Jr.
	Diana Reyna	David Yassky



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Dear Council Members:

We were dismayed by the recent vote in the New York City Council to amend the term limits law twice affirmed by voters. Our individual opinions on term limits vary enormously; there are members who are in favor of the strictest possible two-term limit and others who do not believe in term limits at all. In spite of this, our sense of the process followed to change the law is very clear: it was undemocratic.

What is the purpose of a referendum if its results can be so lightly overturned by elected representatives purporting to act in the people's best interests? This action on the part of the City Council has rendered moot one of democracy's most critical tools for reform. While there may be a legal case for the City Council's action, common sense – and good politics – should have suggested that it was not the right way to approach the issue.

We are deeply disappointed in you and all other City Council members who chose the easy way out and voted for this ill-conceived legislative fix. We anticipate that our disappointment – echoed by so many of the City's most progressive organizations – will have repercussions for those who participated in this process and now seek to continue in office.

This is no way for a democracy to work – or for Democrats to behave.

Very truly yours,

CHELSEA REFORM DEMOCRATIC CLUB

*Lynn Kotler (ll)*

Lynn Kotler, President

cc: City Council Members Who Voted Against Term Limits:

Joseph Addabbo, Jr.	Bill de Blasio	Vincent Gentile	Jessica Lappin	Rosie Mendez
Tony Avella	Mathieu Eugene	Eric Gioia	John Liu	Hiram Monserrate
Charles Barron	Daniel Garodnick	Vincent Ignizio	Melissa Mark-Viverito	James Oddo
Gail Brewer	James Gennaro	Letitia James	Michael McMahan	Annabel Palma
Anthony Como				David Weprin

Home club of: City Council Speaker: Christine C. Quinn, State Senator: Tom Duane and Assembly Member: Richard Gottfried  
State Committeewoman: Doris Corrigan; District Leaders: Mary Dorman and Tom Schuler  
Club President: Lynn Kotler  
Vice Presidents: Judith Richheimer and Luke McAuliffe;  
Secretary: Linda Longstreet; Treasurer: Paul J. Groncki