

ORDINANCE 16-1598

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, SETTING TERM LIMITS FOR THE ELECTED OFFICIALS IN THE CITY OF CARSON BY ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 12 “TERM LIMITS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS” TO ARTICLE II OF THE CARSON MUNICIPAL CODE

WHEREAS, the elected officials of the City of Carson currently are Mayor, members of the City Council, City Clerk, and City Treasurer; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Carson currently does not have term limits for the elected officials of the City; and,

WHEREAS, the positive aspects of term limits for elected city officials include the following:

- Limits potential abuses of power by elected officials who stay in office too long
- Encourages new people to get involved in local government
- Broadens the base of potential candidates
- Increases responsiveness to the public
- Encourages fresh ideas
- Provides voters with more choices
- Increase voter turnout
- Ensures a better balance of power among different interest groups
- Encourages more diversity of members of the City Council
- Encourages broader representation of different neighborhoods; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the City that term limits be established for all elected offices in the City, and it is the purpose and intent of this Ordinance to achieve the positive impacts of term limits mentioned above.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. A new Chapter 12 is added to Article II of the Carson Municipal Code to read, in its entirety, as follows:

“TERM LIMITS FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Sections: **21200 Term Limits**
 21201 Elected Officials
 21202 Partial Terms of Office
 21203 Application

21204 Amendments

21205 Severability

Section 21200. Term Limits.

No person shall be elected or appointed to more than three (3) terms as an elected official, or in any combination of elected offices, in the City of Carson.

Section 21201. Elected Officials

The term “elected officials” as used in this Chapter includes the office of:

- A. Mayor,
- B. Member of the City Council,
- C. City Clerk, and
- D. City Treasurer.

Section 21202. Partial Terms of Office.

A. The limitation on terms of office described in section 21200 shall not apply to any unexpired term to which a person is elected or appointed if the remainder of the term is less than one-half of the full term of office.

B. Notwithstanding subsection (A), if an elected official is elected Mayor, his or her uncompleted term of office shall not count towards the term limits established in Section 21200, provided that:

- 1. The elected official is elected to the Office of Mayor at a general municipal election; and
- 2. The elected official’s office is not scheduled for election at such general municipal election.

Section 21203. Application.

The term limits described in this Chapter shall apply to terms of office beginning on or after the general election held on November 8, 2016.

Section 21204. Amendments.

The City Council may by majority vote amend the provisions of this Chapter contained in Section 21202 to implement the substantive provisions of this Chapter, provided that such amendments are consistent with and further the purposes and intent of this Chapter.

Section 21205. Severability.

If any subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Chapter or any part thereof is for any reason held to be unenforceable or otherwise invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this Chapter or any part thereof.”

Section 2. Amendment or Repeal. The City Council may by majority vote amend the provisions of this Ordinance to implement the substantive provisions of this Ordinance, provided that such amendments are consistent with and further the purposes and intent of this Chapter.

Section 3. Severability. If any subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance or any part thereof is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this ordinance or any part thereof. The People of the City of Carson hereby declare that they would have passed each subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase be declared unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable.

Section 4. Effective Date. After its adoption by the voters, this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect ten (10) days after the vote is declared by the City Council of the City of Carson, pursuant to the provisions of Election Code §§ 9217 and 15400 and as provided by law.

CERTIFICATE OF ATTESTATION AND ORIGINALITY

I, Donesia L. Gause, City Clerk of the City of Carson, California, do hereby attest to and certify that the above Ordinance No. 16-1595 was Passed, Approved, and Adopted by the People of the City of Carson, California, voting on the 8th day of November, 2016.

Donesia L. Guase,
City Clerk, City of Carson