



REFERRAL OF MEMBER MOTION BY CITY COUNCIL

Exploring Term Limits for City Councillors and Mayor

Date:	February 27, 2013
To:	Executive Committee
From:	City Council
Wards:	All Wards

City Council Decision

City Council on February 20 and 21, 2013, referred Motion MM30.8 to the Executive Committee.

Recommendations

Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon, seconded by Councillor Jaye Robinson, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Manager to report to City Council no later October 8, 2013, on the potential for term limits for City Councillors and Mayors which will include, but is not limited to:
 - a. opinions and recommendations from the City Solicitor regarding the term limit under existing legislation specifically City of Toronto Act (2006) and Municipal Elections Act (1996);
 - b. a survey and comparison of term limits for elected representatives in North American municipalities;
 - c. the potential effects on political engagement and participation that could arise from the imposition of term limits in Toronto; and
 - d. a robust public consultation process to assess Torontonians attitude toward term limits.

Summary

Many cities impose a term limit on elected representatives to encourage a healthy turnover in representation and ideas. Toronto must investigate if limiting the length of time Councillors and the Mayor can remain in office will make Toronto's government more reflective of the demographics and political aspirations of this City's residents.

Participation in municipal politics in Toronto is lacking. Toronto needs to discuss whether or not term limits will encourage greater engagement in civic politics. If term limits will ensure that Torontonians get the representation they deserve, they should be adopted. This Motion is intended to explore if term limits are the key to making Toronto City Council more reflective of the demographics, ideas and talents of Toronto.

The Municipal Elections Act (1996) details who can be a candidate for municipal office in any municipality on Ontario. Currently there is no limit to the number of consecutive times a Toronto City Councillor or Mayor can be elected.

(Submitted to City Council on February 20 and 21, 2013 as MM30.8)