

CALL TO ACTION

Calls and Emails Requested

Week 2 Leads off Tuesday -With Term Limit Legislation
Senate Bill 438 will be heard at 8:30am Tuesday in Senate Ethics and
Elections!

SB 438: Term Limits -by [Ingoglia](#)
Term Limits; Establishing term limits for county commissioners; prohibiting specified
persons from seeking certain offices until after a specified timeframe, etc.
Bill Text: [Web Page](#) | [PDF](#)

The Briefing for January 12, 2024

The last Briefing was January 10, 2024

How's your weather – <https://weather.com/>

Emails to committee members are requested

Call or email the members of the committee

Copy the following emails and put them in the To: Line of your email

To: burgess.danny.web@flsenate.gov; rouson.darry.web@flsenate.gov;
avila.bryan.web@flsenate.gov; grall.erin.web@flsenate.gov;
martin.jonathan.web@flsenate.gov; Mayfield.debbie.web@flsenate.gov;
Polsky.tina.web@flsenate.gov; powell.bobby.web@flsenate.gov

Subject: Oppose SB438 – Term Limits for County Commissioners

SB 438 restricts Freedom, Choice, and Liberty!

- 1. Term limits take power away from voters!*
- 2. Severely Decreases the capacity for good policy!*
- 3. Limits incentive for official to gain expertise!*
- 4. Automatically removes effective elected officials!*
- 5. Do little to eliminate potential for corruption!*

Committee on Ethics and Elections Members

Chair: [Senator Danny Burgess \(R\)](#); Vice Chair: [Senator Darryl Ervin Rouson \(D\)](#); [Senator Bryan Avila \(R\)](#); [Senator Erin Grall \(R\)](#); [Senator Blaise Ingoglia \(R\)](#); [Senator Jonathan Martin \(R\)](#);
[Senator Debbie Mayfield \(R\)](#); [Senator Tina Scott Polsky \(D\)](#); and, [Senator Bobby Powell \(D\)](#)

The bill proposes to limit county commissioners to two 4 year terms. For Commissioners elected in 2022 – the past two years will count against the 8 years of service. For commissioners elected prior to 2022 – the term limit clock will start after the November General election. In effect the bill is retroactive for half of the county commissioner the bill; for others it proforma.

More Rationale

Why should county commissioner term limits be rejected?

The existing method of selecting county commissioners works, it puts power in the hands of the people, and decisions about term-limits should be left local– its not broken!

SB 438 restricts Freedom, Choice, and Liberty!

Local Voters should not have their choice arbitrarily restricted.

The existence of term limits for local officials should be a local decision!

SB 438 takes local decision-making away from local communities and puts it in the hands of the Florida legislature by statute.

The ability to choose your elected officials is one of the foundations of our country.

Establishing term-limits and electing local officials should be in the hands for local voters.

People want choice – They don't want to limit choice – they want to expand choice.

Enacting term limits on local offices restricts the voter's freedom to choose who they feel is the best candidate.

1. Communities are different - It's a fact that in smaller, less populous areas the candidate pool is restricted. Term-limits automatically removes effective elected officials.
2. Term limits are not needed - Turnover already occurs –People retire! Some are defeated! And some die!
3. Institutional knowledge is lost – term-limits decrease capacity for good policy. Experience and community ties matter!
4. Voters in each individual county deserve the right to choose whether a local official is doing the job they were elected to do and they deserve the right to choose locally whether their community should have term limits at all.
5. Term-limiting does little to improve transparency and minimize potential for corruption!
6. Restricting individuals from running more than two terms should be the purview of the local community.
7. People should be given the maximum right to choose – the right to choose helps you do what's best for your families – what's best for communities – and the right to elect a person that the local electorate believe is the best person to represent them at the local level.
8. SB 438 doesn't trust voters! It takes power away from the voters! It should be rejected! .

Legislative Briefings Planned Next Week

Individuals do not need to register for these events – just show up!

Small County Coalition Legislative Reception

Tuesday - January 16th - 5:15pm-7:15pm

Venue -American Institute of Architects Florida Headquarters - 104 E. Jefferson St., Tallahassee

Small School District Council Consortium Special Legislative Briefing

Wednesday – January 17 - 10:00am-11:45am

Venue - The Hayward House - 228.Adams Street

Tools to follow the Legislature

Links to House and Senate Home Pages

<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/>
<https://www.flsenate.gov/>

Link to watch Legislative Committees

<https://thefloridachannel.org/>

Legislative Calendar

House Calendar through Tuesday - Jan. 16

Senate Calendar through Tuesday - Jan. 16

Legislative Priorities

[The Small County Coalition - 2024 Legislative Program - November 2023 .docx](#)

[SSDCC 2024 Legislative Priorities - Adopted - Final Revised - November 2023 .docx](#)

Links to Monitor the Legislative Session

Link to the Florida Senate

Link to the Florida House of Representatives

The Florida Channel

About the Briefing!

The Briefing is prepared by Chris Doolin

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The Briefing is compiled to provide information to elected officials and staff in counties that are members of the Small County Coalition and the Small School Representing District Council Consortium. It is also sent to Professional Colleagues and Associates. For Questions Email cdoolin@DoolinandAssoc.com

If you want to see all of the latest briefings – you can go www.smallcountycoalition.org or www.ssdcc.org and click on the red **Briefing** button