

Let the people decide whether they want term limits or not

ELMHURST ... The nation's founders, drawing on the histories of the Greek and Roman republics, strongly believed in rotation of officers. In the Constitutional Convention debates, as well as the Federalist Papers, the idea that holding political office was service to the public, and not a career, is clear. Career officials are susceptible to the influences of power and at times pursue policies that are meant to keep them in office, as opposed to serving the public.

The headline of a recent Doings article, "Elected officials

weigh in on term limits," inadvertently highlights this problem: incumbent officials who may be unwilling to put the issue to the voters. Elmhurst Mayor Tom Marcucci likens term limits to communism and believes they are detrimental to democracy, even though it is the voters who would approve them. What is more democratic than people choosing, by approval or rejection, whether they want term limits or not?

The Illinois Constitution, Article VII, Section 6 states that "A home rule municipality shall

have the power to provide for its officers, their manner of selection and terms of office only as approved by referendum or as otherwise authorized by law."

Elmhurst public officials are not deciding on term limits. Their debate is only about whether or not the city should place a binding term limit referendum on the ballot. The constitution is clear: The city should put the question before the people so that they, be they opposed or in favor, decide. ... **Gabriel**

Gardner, college intern, Citizen Advocacy Center