

Argument in Favor of Measure Q
City of Atwater

Vote YES on Measure Q Term Limits.

Term limits for our State legislators have been very successful in California, and are favored by a large majority statewide. It's time to bring term limits to the Atwater City Council as well. A YES vote on Measure Q will bring new people and new ideas to the City of Atwater.

Benjamin Franklin made the best case for term limits more than two centuries ago: "*In free governments, the rulers are the servants, and the people their superiors For the former to return among the latter does not degrade, but promote them.*" In other words, when politicians know they must return to ordinary society and live under the laws passed while they were in government, they will think less about re-election and more about the consequences of their decisions.

Opponents of term limits (usually incumbents) charge that limits are antidemocratic, that people should be free to elect to office whomever they want and that voters inherently have the power to limit terms simply by voting incumbents out. But this ignores the enormous, built-in advantage of incumbent lawmakers, who have frequent access to free media publicity and other resources.

The proponents of Measure Q believe that when those who represent us serve for short periods of time, they stay connected to their communities and neighborhoods and serve the public interest. Term limits help block the corruption and arrogance that comes when long-time legislators become more concerned with their perks and privileges than with what's best for the people.

Larry Bergman
City Council Member
City of Atwater