



September 2, 2009

Mayor Alan Hanks
300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Dear Mayor Hanks:

The purpose of this letter is to convey the recommendation of the Chamber that the term of Office of Mayor be lengthened to four years and the term of Office of Council Members be lengthened to three years.

During the early part of this year, our Governmental Affairs Committee and our Board of Directors discussed the benefits of these longer terms of office. On January 20th we presented our intent to make such a recommendation to the Council. Following that presentation, we hosted a March 14th public forum. The cumulative effect of our discussions and the public forum convinced us that longer terms of office will better serve Rapid City's citizens, our Mayor and Council Members.

As an organization, we strongly believe the lengthened terms of office will contribute to the best interest of better government. This will afford office holders opportunities to more methodically and programmatically analyze their decisions and the direction of government operations without the challenges of campaigning every two years.

The method by which we believe the changes should occur are outlined below:

- The passage of an ordinance establishing three year terms of Office of Aldermen effective with candidates elected in 2010 and 2011
- A four year term of Office of Mayor effective with the candidate elected in 2011.

As our city has grown and the complexities of governing have become ever more challenging, we believe that lengthening the terms of office will provide our city's elected officials with a better foundation on which to govern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Hamburg".

Randy Hamburg, Chairman
Board of Directors

**Proposed Year by Year: 4-Year Mayoral and 3-Year Council Terms
with Initiated Measure in 2009 to change terms at the following election**

Election Cycle Analysis

2009-2017

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Mayor Council 1 Initiated Measure	Council 2	Mayor Council 1	Council 2	Council 2	Council 1	Mayor	Council 2	Council 1

Election Cycle Analysis

2018-2026

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	Mayor Council 2	Council 1		Council 2	Mayor Council 1		Council 2	Council 1

Election Cycle Analysis

2027-2035

2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Mayor	Council 2	Council 1		Mayor Council 2	Council 1		Council 2	Mayor Council 1

