

# If elected, how old will city governing body candidates be at the end of their term?

With the relative youth of Barack Obama and Sarah Palin on the Top Ticket in the Land, candidates for office on the next City of Cheyenne ballot should be more closely scrutinized. If, as a voter, you believe only middle-aged men should serve, your choices will be easy. Of course, you'd have to add "elderly" men to the mix to send home those who have been members of the City governing body for the past several years.

the eldest candidates. Granted, John McCain just turned 72 and has endured conditions none of the local candidates have but *his* age is a factor in the upcoming election for President, too. Health isn't the only concern about age. Another is how representative those that old are of their constituents. And how much energy those who have served for so long have left. With Obama and Palin on the national scene, it might be a good time to consider age here. And, for a city the size of Cheyenne, it is remarkable how little advanced education members of the current governing body have.

Of the candidates on the November 4th ballot, most of the incumbents are among

<b>Sarah Landstrom - DOB September 29, 1940</b>	<b>72 Years, 3 months, 4 days</b>
<b>Don Pierson - DOB August 30, 1941</b>	<b>71 Years, 4 months, 3 days</b>
<b>Jimmy Valdez - DOB December 19, 1942</b>	<b>70 Years, 14 days</b>
<b>Rick Kaysen - DOB October 28, 1946</b>	<b>66 Years, 2 months, 5 days</b>
<b>Jack Spiker - DOB July 7, 1947</b>	<b>65 Years, 5 months, 26 days</b>
<b>Jim Brown - DOB January 22, 1950</b>	<b>62 Years, 11 months, 26 days</b>
<b>Pete Laybourn - DOB August 31, 1951</b>	<b>61 Years, 4 months, 2 days</b>
<b>Delmar Stone - DOB August 28, 1952</b>	<b>60 Years, 4 months, 5 days</b>
<b>Jayne Mockler - DOB September 21, 1952</b>	<b>60 Years, 3 months, 11 days</b>
<b>Patrick Collins - DOB March 14, 1960</b>	<b>52 Years, 9 months, 19 days</b>
<b>Donna Roofe - DOB November 19, 1961</b>	<b>51 Years, 1 month, 14 days</b>
<b>Jeff Goins - DOB March 23, 1972</b>	<b>40 Years, 9 months, 10 days</b>
<b>Kurt Zunker - DOB Sept. 27, 1972</b>	<b>40 Years, 3 months, 5 days</b>
<b>Amber Ash - DOB June 11, 1983</b>	<b>29 Years, 6 months, 21 days</b>

Note: Assumes the swearing-in date will be January 2, 2009. If the mayor declares that day a holiday, the swearing in will be January 5th and three days have to be added to each person's age at end of his/her term.

## Years in office at January 2, 2013, if re-elected on November 4, 2008

<b>Pierson</b>	<b>20 Years</b>	How long is long enough? After how many terms should there be at least a reasonable turnover in elected offices?
<b>Spiker</b>	<b>16 Years</b>	What value is there to institutional memory when the person who should have it has never applied himself/herself to the office and hasn't learned commensurate with their length of service? Has anyone seen a longtime officeholder get better with those years - become more valuable in that office - than they were earlier in their tenure?
<b>Valdez</b>	<b>~14 Years</b>	If unlimited terms in elective office were so important, why did the American people decide that two terms of office was enough for the President of the United States? Why have so many states passed Term Limit legislation when given the opportunity? Why did Wyoming voters - 77% of those who voted - favor term limits only to be denied by the Wyoming Supreme Court? Who among us believes that Wyoming voters wouldn't again vote for term limits if allowed to do so as a Constitutional Amendment?
<b>Collins</b>	<b>12 Years</b>	
<b>Laybourn</b>	<b>8 Years</b>	If it were true that the ballot box is an available applicant of term limits, why is it that 97%-98% of the incumbents who seek re-election are successful? Why does an indicted Senator like Ted Stevens (R-AK) win a primary election just days after being indicted on multiple counts, some of which he is almost certain to be convicted?
<b>Brown</b>	<b>~6 Years</b>	

Four presidents have come and gone since Don Pierson became a Cheyenne city councilman. George Bush the Elder was finishing his only term when Don Pierson was first elected in 1992. In 1992, Bill Clinton was elected for the first time. In 1996, Bill Clinton was elected for the second time. In 2000, George W. Bush was elected for the first time. In 2004, George W. Bush was elected for the second time. In 2008, whether Don Pierson is re-elected for his fifth term or not, Barack Obama or John McCain will be elected President. If the Country forces presidents to leave office, no matter how popular or needed, after two terms, Cheyenne doesn't need five term city councilmen.