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City Council Hearing on Term Limits  
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I am Patricia Dolan and for more than thirty years I have fought for my community and city as an individual and currently as president of the Kew Gardens Hills Civic Association and executive vice president of the Queens Civic Congress, a borough wide coalition of more than 100 civics.

Because neither Mayor Bloomberg nor Speaker Quinn have given community groups like the Kew Gardens Hills Civic Association time to meet and consider their proposal to overturn term limits, my statement today is a personal one.

I voted twice against imposing term limits on the City's elected officials. I remain personally opposed to term limits. But that is not what this is all about.

The people's right to vote is the bedrock of democracy and trumps retaining the services of Mayor Bloomberg, Speaker Quinn and the current Council members—even in these perilous times. **Especially in these perilous times.**

For Mayor Bloomberg, Speaker Quinn and some current Council members to try to deprive the public of the right to vote on an issue that the people have twice resoundingly supported because they are convinced of their importance to our City's future—or because they know better than the people who have spoken--is contemptible.

Those who are so eager to throw away our right to vote should think about the day when they might not be able to vote at all. And they would do well to ask their friends and neighbors who have lived in places where voting does not count at all what that is like.

\* For identification purposes

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