

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025**

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SENATE BILL 810

Short Title: Even-Year Municipal Elections/Catawba Co. (Local)

Sponsors: Senator Hollo (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 22, 2026

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS FOR ALL MUNICIPALITIES IN CATAWBA COUNTY BE HELD IN EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

TOWN OF BROOKFORD

SECTION 1.(a) Section 3 of the Charter of the Town of Brookford, being Chapter 230 of the Private Laws of 1907, as amended by Chapter 109 of the 1961 Session Laws and Town Ordinance, reads as rewritten:

"Sec. 3. ~~That the officers of the said corporation shall be a mayor, three commissioners and such other officers and agents as may be appointed by the board of commissioners to enforce their ordinances, keep their records, and otherwise aid in the conduct of the affairs of the town. That until Tuesday after the first Monday in May, one thousand nine hundred and seven, T. J. Leonard is appointed to the office of mayor of said town, and W. H. Shuford, J. W. Ballew and C. E. Cole are appointed commissioners thereof; that the said mayor and commissioners shall hold their offices until their successors are elected and qualified, as hereafter provided.~~The officers of the Town of Brookford shall be a mayor and four aldermen. The term of office for mayor shall be four years. The terms of office for the aldermen shall be four-year staggered terms."

SECTION 1.(b) Section 4 of the Charter of the Town of Brookford, being Chapter 230 of the Private Laws of 1907, as amended by Chapter 109 of the 1961 Session Laws and Town Ordinance, reads as rewritten:

"Sec. 4. ~~That there shall be an election to the offices of mayor and commissioners of said town on Tuesday after the first Monday in May, one thousand nine hundred and seven, and biennially thereafter, under the same restrictions and regulations under which State and county elections are held, and as provided by law for elections in cities and towns in North Carolina.~~Regular municipal elections for officers in the Town of Brookford shall be held at the time of the general election in each even-numbered year. The election shall be conducted on a nonpartisan plurality basis and the results determined in accordance with G.S. 163-292. Except as otherwise provided, the election shall be conducted in accordance with the uniform municipal election laws in Chapter 163 of the General Statutes."

SECTION 1.(c) No municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town of Brookford in 2027. The terms of office for the two aldermen in the Town of Brookford serving on the effective date of this section whose terms are set to expire in 2027 shall be extended by one year. The terms of office for the mayor and two aldermen in the Town of Brookford serving on the



1 effective date of this section whose terms are set to expire in 2029 shall be extended by one year.
2 Regular municipal elections in the Town of Brookford shall resume in even-numbered years
3 beginning in 2028 with the same staggering of terms as when elections were conducted in the
4 odd-numbered years.

6 TOWN OF CATAWBA

7 **SECTION 2.(a)** Section 4 of the Charter of the Town of Catawba, being Chapter
8 274 of the Private Laws of 1893, as amended by Chapter 333 of the 1951 Session Laws, Chapter
9 224 of the 1965 Session Laws, Town Ordinance No. 02-10 adopted on July 1, 2002, and Town
10 Ordinance No. 2006-15 adopted on November 6, 2006, and referred to as Section 5 in the current
11 amended Town Code, reads as rewritten:

12 "Sec. 5. Elections.

13 ...

14 (b) Elections shall be conducted on the first Tuesday of November in ~~odd-numbered~~
15 even-numbered years as provided by the laws of North Carolina.

16 ...

17 (d) The mayor shall be elected every four years, for a term of four years, ~~beginning with the~~
18 regular municipal election in 2007-years.

19"

20 **SECTION 2.(b)** No municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town of Catawba
21 in 2027. The terms of office for the mayor and two council members in the Town of Catawba
22 serving on the effective date of this section whose terms are set to expire in 2027 shall be
23 extended by one year. The terms of office for the two council members in the Town of Catawba
24 serving on the effective date of this section whose terms are set to expire in 2029 shall be
25 extended by one year. Regular municipal elections in the Town of Catawba shall resume in
26 even-numbered years beginning in 2028 with the same staggering of terms as when elections
27 were conducted in the odd-numbered years.

29 CITY OF CLAREMONT

30 **SECTION 3.(a)** Section 3 of the Charter of the City of Claremont, being Chapter 11
31 of the Private Laws of 1893, as amended by Chapter 76 of the 1961 Session Laws, Chapter 97 of
32 the 1975 Session Laws, S.L. 2005-54, and Town Ordinance adopted on February 3, 1976, reads
33 as rewritten:

34 "Sec. 3. Elections; Terms of mayor and ~~councilmen~~-council members.

35 (a) ~~At the regular annual election of city officers in May, 1961, in the City of Claremont,~~
36 ~~the qualified voters shall elect a mayor and five (5) councilmen.~~The governing body for the City
37 of Claremont shall consist of a mayor and five council members, elected to serve four-year
38 staggered terms. Regular municipal elections shall be held at the time of the general election in
39 each even-numbered year. Council members for the City of Claremont shall be elected on a
40 nonpartisan plurality basis and the results determined in accordance with G.S. 163-292. Except
41 as otherwise provided, the election shall be conducted in accordance with the uniform municipal
42 election laws in Chapter 163 of the General Statutes.

43 (b) ~~The mayor to be elected in 2005 shall~~shall be elected to serve for a term of four years
44 or until a successor is duly elected and qualified. Thereafter, a mayor shall be elected every four
45 years in the odd-numbered years and the term of office shall be four years.

46 (c) ~~Of the five (5) councilmen now holding office in the City of Claremont, Catawba~~
47 ~~County, successors to the offices now held by Harold McRee Wilson, Eddy Gaither Harwell, and~~
48 ~~William David Watts shall be elected at the November, 1975, election, and every four (4) years~~
49 ~~thereafter, for the City of Claremont and shall serve for terms of four (4) years or until their~~
50 ~~successors are elected and qualified. Successors to the offices now held by Timothy Allan~~
51 ~~Lowrance and Gary Wayne Carpenter shall be elected at the regular November, 1977, election,~~

1 and every four (4) years thereafter, for the City of Claremont and shall serve for terms of four (4)
2 years or until their successors are elected and qualified. The terms of office of Timothy Allan
3 Lowrance and Gary Wayne Carpenter are hereby extended to November, 1977, or until their
4 successors are elected and qualified. Thereafter, as the terms of office expire, councilmen Council
5 members elected at regular town-City elections shall serve for terms of four (4)-years or until
6 their successors are duly elected and qualified."

7 **SECTION 3.(b)** No municipal elections shall be conducted in the City of Claremont
8 in 2027. The terms of office for the three council members in the City of Claremont serving on
9 the effective date of this section whose terms are set to expire in 2027 shall be extended by one
10 year. The terms of office for the mayor and two council members in the City of Claremont serving
11 on the effective date of this section whose terms are set to expire in 2029 shall be extended by
12 one year. Regular municipal elections in the City of Claremont shall resume in even-numbered
13 years beginning in 2028 with the same staggering of terms as when elections were conducted in
14 the odd-numbered years.

15 16 CITY OF CONOVER

17 **SECTION 4.(a)** Section 4.01 of the Charter of the City of Conover, being Chapter
18 78 of the 1977 Session Laws, as amended by City Ordinance No. 16-96 adopted July 8, 1996,
19 reads as rewritten:

20 "Section 4.01. Conduct of city elections. Regular municipal elections shall be held at the time
21 of the general election in each even-numbered year. All elections for mayor and council shall be
22 held on a nonpartisan basis and the results determined by plurality as provided in ~~G.S. 163-~~
23 ~~279(a)(1).~~ G.S. 163-292. The term of office of the mayor shall be four (4)-years. The terms of
24 office of ~~councilmen~~ council members shall be four years. ~~At the regular election in November,~~
25 ~~1997, and quadrennially thereafter, two councilmen and the mayor shall be elected. At the regular~~
26 ~~election in November, 1979, and quadrennially thereafter, three councilmen shall be elected.~~
27 four-year staggered terms. The elections for the City of Conover shall be held and conducted
28 pursuant to the applicable provisions of Articles 23 and 24 of in accordance with the uniform
29 municipal election laws in Chapter 163 of the General Statutes of North Carolina. Statutes, except
30 as otherwise provided."

31 **SECTION 4.(b)** No municipal elections shall be conducted in the City of Conover
32 in 2027. The terms of office for the three council members in the City of Conover serving on the
33 effective date of this section whose terms are set to expire in 2027 shall be extended by one year.
34 The terms of office for the mayor and two council members in the City of Conover serving on
35 the effective date of this section whose terms are set to expire in 2029 shall be extended by one
36 year. Regular municipal elections in the City of Conover shall resume in even-numbered years
37 beginning in 2028 with the same staggering of terms as when elections were conducted in the
38 odd-numbered years.

39 40 CITY OF HICKORY

41 **SECTION 5.(a)** Section 2.01 of the Charter of the City of Hickory, being Chapter
42 323 of the 1961 Session Laws, as amended by Chapter 404 of the 1967 Session Laws, reads as
43 rewritten:

44 "Sec. 2.01. Composition, Election, and Terms of Mayor and City Council; Time of General
45 Election. (a) The voters of the city shall elect a mayor and six ~~aldermen~~ council members. The
46 mayor shall be nominated and elected at large. The ~~aldermen~~ council members shall be
47 nominated by wards and elected at large. The candidate from each ward receiving the highest
48 number of votes shall be declared elected. Except as is otherwise provided in this Charter, no two
49 ~~aldermen~~ council members shall be residents of the same ward. ~~All municipal elections shall be~~
50 ~~nonpartisan.~~

1 (b) ~~A general municipal election shall be held on the first Monday in June of 1967, and~~
2 ~~on the first Monday in June of 1968. In 1970, and biennially thereafter, the general municipal~~
3 ~~election shall be held on the first Monday in June.~~ Regular municipal elections shall be held at
4 the time of the general election in each even-numbered year. The mayor and council members
5 shall be elected on a nonpartisan plurality basis and the results determined in accordance with
6 G.S. 163-292. Except as otherwise provided, the elections for the City of Hickory shall be held
7 and conducted in accordance with the uniform municipal election laws in Chapter 163 of the
8 General Statutes.

9 (c) ~~The terms of all council members shall begin at the day and hour prescribed by~~
10 ~~Section 3.03 of this Charter for the taking of the oath of office, and shall run for a period of four~~
11 ~~years, except for member's interim terms of three years for the next election of aldermen of the~~
12 ~~fourth, fifth, and sixth wards. This Section shall apply to elections coming in 1967. Members~~
13 ~~shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified. In the event that it is not possible~~
14 ~~otherwise to determine which of two or more persons should be considered a hold-over alderman,~~
15 ~~decision shall be made by lot between the aldermen who are willing to serve, the lots to be cast~~
16 ~~under the supervision of the mayor and the remaining qualified aldermen.~~ The mayor shall be
17 elected for a term of four years. The terms of office of council members shall be four-year
18 staggered terms."

19 **SECTION 5.(b)** No municipal elections shall be conducted in the City of Hickory
20 in 2027. The terms of office for the three council members in the City of Hickory serving on the
21 effective date of this section whose terms are set to expire in 2027 shall be extended by one year.
22 The terms of office for the mayor and three council members in the City of Hickory serving on
23 the effective date of this section whose terms are set to expire in 2029 shall be extended by one
24 year. Regular municipal elections in the City of Hickory shall resume in even-numbered years
25 beginning in 2028 with the same staggering of terms as when elections were conducted in the
26 odd-numbered years.

27 **TOWN OF LONG VIEW**

28 **SECTION 6.(a)** Section 3 of the Charter of the Town of Long View, being Chapter
29 430 of the Private Laws of 1907, as amended by Chapter 131 of the Private Laws of 1929,
30 Chapter 789 of the 1955 Session Laws, and Motion of Town Board of Aldermen Meeting on
31 January 3, 1978, reads as rewritten:

32 "Sec. 3. Town Elections.

33 (a) The governing body for the Town of Long View shall consist of a mayor and six
34 aldermen. The mayor shall be nominated and elected by the voters at large for a four-year term
35 and shall serve until a successor is elected and qualified. Each ward of the Town of Long View
36 shall be represented on the board of aldermen by one alderman, who must be a resident of that
37 ward and nominated and elected by that ward. The aldermen shall serve four-year staggered terms
38 and until their successors are elected and qualified.

39 The Town of Long View shall be divided into five wards as follows:

40 ...

41 (b) Regular municipal elections shall be held at the time of the general election in each
42 even-numbered year. The mayor and aldermen shall be elected on a nonpartisan plurality basis
43 and the results determined in accordance with G.S. 163-292. Except as otherwise provided, the
44 elections for the Town of Long View shall be held and conducted in accordance with the uniform
45 municipal election laws in Chapter 163 of the General Statutes."

46 **SECTION 6.(b)** No municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town of Long
47 View in 2027. The terms of office for the three aldermen in the Town of Long View serving on
48 the effective date of this section whose terms are set to expire in 2027 shall be extended by one
49 year. The terms of office for the mayor and three aldermen in the Town of Long View serving
50 on the effective date of this section whose terms are set to expire in 2029 shall be extended by
51

1 one year. Regular municipal elections in the Town of Long View shall resume in even-numbered
2 years beginning in 2028 with the same staggering of terms as when elections were conducted in
3 the odd-numbered years.

4 5 **TOWN OF MAIDEN**

6 **SECTION 7.(a)** Section 4 of the Charter of the Town of Maiden, being Chapter 103
7 of the Private Laws of 1883, as amended by Chapter 445 of the 1955 Session Laws, Town
8 Ordinance No. 3-76 adopted on April 5, 1976, and Ordinance No. 11-2006 adopted on April 3,
9 2006, reads as rewritten:

10 "Section 4. Elections.

11 ...

12 (b) Elections shall be conducted on the first Tuesday of November in ~~odd-numbered~~
13 even-numbered years as provided by the Laws of North Carolina.

14 (c) Election of the Mayor and Council shall be on a nonpartisan plurality basis and the
15 following rules shall be utilized in determining those elected: ~~(1) When more than one person is~~
16 ~~seeking election to a single office, the candidate who receives the highest number of votes shall~~
17 ~~be declared elected. (2) When more persons are seeking election to two or more offices~~
18 ~~(constituting a group) than there are offices to be filled, those candidates receiving the highest~~
19 ~~number of votes equal in number to the number of offices to be filled, shall be declared elected.~~
20 ~~(3) If two or more candidates receiving the highest number of votes each receive the same number~~
21 ~~of votes, the board of elections shall determine the winner by lot.~~ results determined in accordance
22 with G.S. 163-292. Except as otherwise provided, the elections for the Town of Maiden shall be
23 held and conducted in accordance with the uniform municipal election laws in Chapter 163 of
24 the General Statutes.

25 (d) The term of office for the Mayor shall be two ~~(2)~~-years.

26 (e) The term of office for the Council shall be ~~determined as follows: (1) Election in 1975 to~~
27 ~~provide that the two candidates receiving the first and second largest number of votes to serve~~
28 ~~four year terms; (2) Election in 1975 to provide that the three candidates receiving the third,~~
29 ~~fourth, and fifth largest number of votes to serve two year terms; (3) Election in 1977 to provide~~
30 ~~that the two candidates receiving the first and second largest number of votes to serve four year~~
31 ~~terms; (4) Election in 1977 to provide that the candidate receiving the third largest number of~~
32 ~~votes to serve a two year term; (5) Election in all odd numbered years after 1977 to provide that~~
33 staggered such that during the regular municipal election in each even-numbered year, three
34 council members shall be elected with the two candidates receiving the first and second largest
35 number of votes to serve four-year terms; terms and the candidate receiving the third largest
36 number of votes to serve a two-year term."

37 **SECTION 7.(b)** No municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town of Maiden
38 in 2027. The terms of office for the mayor and two council members in the Town of Maiden
39 serving on the effective date of this section whose terms are set to expire in 2027 shall be
40 extended by one year. The terms of office for three council members in the Town of Maiden
41 serving on the effective date of this section whose terms are set to expire in 2029 shall be
42 extended by one year. Regular municipal elections in the Town of Maiden shall resume in
43 even-numbered years beginning in 2028 with the same staggering of terms as when elections
44 were conducted in the odd-numbered years.

45 46 **CITY OF NEWTON**

47 **SECTION 8.(a)** Article III of the Charter of the City of Newton, being Chapter 1042
48 of the 1989 Session Laws, as amended by City Ordinance No. 2002.29 adopted on July 10, 2002,
49 reads as rewritten:

50 "ARTICLE III. GOVERNING BODY.

1 "Section 3.1. **Structure of Governing Body; Number of Members.** The Governing Body
2 of the City of Newton is the ~~Board of Aldermen,~~ City Council, which has six members, and the
3 Mayor.

4 "Section 3.2. **Manner of Election of Board.** ~~Council.~~ The qualified voters of the entire
5 City elect the members of the ~~Board.~~ Council.

6 "Section 3.3. **Term of Office of Members of the Board.** ~~Council.~~ Members of the ~~Board~~
7 Council are elected to four-year staggered terms. ~~In 1991 and each four years thereafter, three~~
8 ~~members of the Board shall be elected. In 1993 and each four years thereafter, three members of~~
9 ~~the Board shall be elected.~~

10 "Section 3.4. **Election of Mayor; Term of Office.** The qualified voters of the entire City
11 elect the ~~Mayor. A new Mayor shall be elected in 1991 and each two years thereafter.~~ Mayor who
12 shall serve a four-year term."

13 **SECTION 8.(b)** Section 4.1 of the Charter of the City of Newton, being Chapter
14 1042 of the 1989 Session Laws, reads as rewritten:

15 "Section 4.1. **Conduct of City Elections.** Regular municipal elections shall be held at the
16 time of the general election in each even-numbered year. City officers shall be elected on a
17 nonpartisan basis and the results determined by plurality, as provided by G.S. 163-292."

18 **SECTION 8.(c)** No municipal elections shall be conducted in the City of Newton in
19 2027. The terms of office for the mayor and three council members in the City of Newton serving
20 on the effective date of this section whose terms are set to expire in 2027 shall be extended by
21 one year. The terms of office for the three council members in the City of Newton serving on the
22 effective date of this section whose terms are set to expire in 2029 shall be extended by one year.
23 Regular municipal elections in the City of Newton shall resume in even-numbered years
24 beginning in 2028 with the same staggering of terms as when elections were conducted in the
25 odd-numbered years.

26
27 **EFFECTIVE DATE**

28 **SECTION 9.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to elections held
29 on or after that date.