

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

H.B. 496
Mar 27, 2017
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40288-LU-48 (02/14)

Short Title: Fair and Nonpartisan Ballot Placement.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Bert Jones.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT REGARDING THE PLACEMENT OF CANDIDATES ON OFFICIAL ELECTION
3 BALLOTS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. G.S. 163-165.6 reads as rewritten:

6 "§ 163-165.6. Arrangement of official ballots.

7 ...

8 (c) Order of Candidates on ~~Primary and Nonpartisan~~ Official Ballots. – The order in
9 which candidates shall appear on a ~~county's~~ official ballots in any (i) ~~primary ballot item,~~
10 ~~whether the primary is partisan or nonpartisan, and (ii) in any nonpartisan general election~~
11 ~~ballot item under Article 25 of this Chapter shall be determined by the county board of~~
12 ~~elections using a process designed by the State Board of Elections for random selection. The~~
13 ~~same random selection process shall be used for all primaries and elections in a calendar~~
14 ~~year-election ballot item shall be by either alphabetical order or reverse alphabetical order by~~
15 ~~the last name of the candidate, which order shall be determined each election by drawing at the~~
16 ~~State Board of Elections after the closing of the filing period for all offices on the ballot.~~

17 (d) ~~Order of Party Candidates on General Election Official Ballot.~~—Candidates in any
18 ~~ballot item on a general election official ballot shall appear in the following order:~~

19 (1) ~~Nominees of political parties that reflect at least five percent (5%) of~~
20 ~~statewide voter registration, according to the most recent statistical report~~
21 ~~published by the State Board of Elections, in alphabetical order by party~~
22 ~~beginning with the party whose nominee for Governor received the most~~
23 ~~votes in the most recent gubernatorial election, and in alphabetical order~~
24 ~~within the party.~~

25 (2) ~~Nominees of other political parties, in alphabetical order by party and in~~
26 ~~alphabetical order within the party.~~

27 (3) ~~Unaffiliated candidates, in alphabetical order.~~

28 (d1) ~~Order of Candidates for Judge of the Court of Appeals on General Election Official~~
29 ~~Ballot.~~—Candidates for judge of the Court of Appeals on a general election official ballot shall
30 ~~appear in the following order:~~

31 (1) ~~Candidates registered with political parties that reflect at least five percent~~
32 ~~(5%) of statewide voter registration, according to the most recent statistical~~
33 ~~report published by the State Board of Elections, in alphabetical order by~~
34 ~~party beginning with the party whose nominee for Governor received the~~
35 ~~most votes in the most recent gubernatorial election and in alphabetical order~~
36 ~~within the party.~~



- 1 (2) ~~Candidates registered with other political parties, in alphabetical order by~~
- 2 ~~party and in alphabetical order within the party.~~
- 3 (3) ~~Unaffiliated candidates, in alphabetical order.~~
- 4 "

5 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to elections
6 held on or after that date.