GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2023

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SENATE BILL 265 PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE S265-PCS35164-BK-14

Short Title: Increase Municipal Election Participation Act. (Local)

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Sponsors:

Referred to: March 13, 2023 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED 1 2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS FOR MUNICIPALITIES IN HENDERSON, POLK, AND RUTHERFORD COUNTIES ARE 3 4 HELD IN EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS AND TO EXTEND THE TERMS OF THE 5 MAYOR IN THE TOWN OF TRYON AND ALL ELECTED OFFICERS IN THE TOWN OF RUTH FROM TWO TO FOUR YEARS. 6 7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts: 8 9 PART I. MUNICIPALITIES IN HENDERSON COUNTY 10 **SECTION 1.1.(a)** Chapter III of the Charter of the Village of Flat Rock, being 11 Chapter 48 of the 1995 Session Laws, reads as rewritten: 12 "CHAPTER III. 13 "GOVERNING BODY. 14 15 "Sec. 3.3. Term of Office of Council Members. In the 1995 municipal election, two-Two 16 members shall be elected from each electoral district. In each electoral district in 1995, the person receiving the highest number of votes is elected to a four-year term, and the person receiving the 17 18 next highest number of votes is elected to a two-year term. In 1997 and biennially thereafter, one 19 person is elected from each electoral district for a staggered four-year term.terms. 20 "Sec. 3.4. Election of Mayor; Term of Office. The qualified voters of the entire Village 21 elect the Mayor. A Mayor shall be elected in 1995 and quadrennially thereafter for a four-year 22 term." 23 **SECTION 1.1.(b)** Section 4.1 of the Charter of the Village of Flat Rock, being 24 Chapter 48 of the 1995 Session Laws, reads as rewritten: 25 "Sec. 4.1. Conduct of Village Elections. Regular municipal elections shall be held at the time of the general election in each even-numbered year. Village officers shall be elected on a 26 27 nonpartisan basis and results determined by the primary method as provided in G.S. 163-294. 28 Except as otherwise provided by this act, the election shall be conducted in accordance with the uniform municipal election laws in Chapter 163 of the General Statutes." 29 **SECTION 1.1.(c)** No municipal elections shall be conducted in the Village of Flat 30 31 Rock in 2023. The terms of the Mayor and the three Council members serving on the effective date of this act whose terms are set to expire in 2023 shall be extended by one year. The terms of 32 33 the three Council members serving on the effective date of this act whose terms are set to expire in 2025 shall be extended by one year. Regular municipal elections shall be conducted in the 34

35 Village of Flat Rock in even-numbered years beginning in 2024.



General Assembly Of North Carolina Session 2023 SECTION 1.1.(d) In 2024 and quadrennially thereafter, a mayor and one Council 1 2 member from each electoral district shall be elected to serve four-year terms. In 2026 and 3 quadrennially thereafter, one Council member from each electoral district shall be elected to 4 serve a four-year term. 5 **SECTION 1.2.(a)** Chapter III of the Charter of the Town of Fletcher, being Chapter 6 44 of the 1989 Session Laws, reads as rewritten: 7 "Chapter III. 8 "Governing Body. 9 10 "Sec. 3.3. Term of office of Council members. Members of the Town Council are elected to staggered four-year terms, except at the initial election in 1989, the two highest vote getters who 11 12 are elected to district seats shall be elected to four-year terms, and the next two highest vote-13 getters elected to district seats shall be elected to two-year terms. In 1991 and guadrennially 14 thereafter, two members of the Council shall be elected for four year terms. In 1993 and 15 quadrennially thereafter, two members of the Council shall be elected for four year terms. 16 "Sec. 3.4. Selection of Mayor; term of office. The qualified voters of the entire town nominate 17 and elect the Mayor. A mayor shall be elected in 1989 and quadrennially thereafter for a four-year 18 term." 19 **SECTION 1.2.(b)** Chapter IV of the Charter of the Town of Fletcher, being Chapter 20 44 of the 1989 Session Laws, reads as rewritten: 21 "Chapter IV. 22 "Elections. 23 "Sec. 4.1. Conduct of Town elections. Regular municipal elections shall be held at the time 24 of the general election in each even-numbered year. The Town Council and Mayor shall be 25 elected on a nonpartisan basis and the results determined by the primary method as provided by 26 G.S. 163-294; provided that if the City of Hendersonville is scheduled to hold a primary on the 27 sixth Tuesday before the election under G.S. 163-279(a)(2), the nonpartisan primary in the Town 28 of Fletcher shall be on that date. Except as otherwise provided by this act, the election shall be 29 conducted in accordance with the uniform municipal election laws of North Carolina." 30 SECTION 1.2.(c) No municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town of Fletcher 31 in 2023. The terms of the two Council members serving on the effective date of this act whose 32 terms are set to expire in 2023 shall be extended by one year. The terms of the Mayor and the 33 two Council members serving on the effective date of this act whose terms are set to expire in 34 2025 shall be extended by one year. Regular municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town 35 of Fletcher in even-numbered years beginning in 2024. 36 SECTION 1.2.(d) In 2024 and quadrennially thereafter, one Council member from 37 each of Districts 2 and 3 shall be elected to serve four-year terms. In 2026 and quadrennially 38 thereafter, a mayor and one Council member from each of Districts 1 and 4 shall be elected to 39 serve four-year terms. 40 SECTION 1.3.(a) Article IV of the Charter of the City of Hendersonville, being 41 Chapter 874 of the 1971 Session Laws, as amended by City Ordinance No. 1995-06-08 adopted 42 on June 8, 1995, and S.L. 2016-15, reads as rewritten: 43 "ARTICLE IV. ELECTION PROCEDURES 44 "Sec. 4.1. Regular Municipal Elections. Regular municipal elections shall be held 45 quadrennially on the date provided by law. In each election year, there shall be elected by the 46 qualified voters of the City four Council Members (in addition to the Mayor) to serve for terms 47 of four years, or at the time of the general election in each even-numbered year. The Mayor and 48 Council Members shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified. 49 "Sec. 4.2. Regular Municipal Primaries. There shall be a regular municipal primary at which 50 each political party shall nominate four candidates for City Commissioners and one for the office of Mayor, to be filled at the regular municipal election. The Mayor and Council Members shall 51

1	be elected on a nonpartisan basis and results determined by the primary method as provided in
2	<u>G.S. 163-294.</u>
3	"Sec. 4.3. Voting. In the elections to be held during the calendar year 1997, each voter shall
4	be entitled to vote for four (4) candidates for City Council and one (1) candidate for the office of
5	mayor. In the election to be held in 1997, two (2) of the council members shall be elected each
6	for a term of two (2) years and two (2) of the council members shall be elected for a term of four
7	(4) years; provided, that the two candidates for council seats receiving the greatest and second
8	greatest number of votes shall be declared elected to the terms of four (4) years, and that the two
9	(2) candidates receiving the third and fourth greatest number of votes shall be declared elected
10	to the terms of two (2) years. In the case of a tie involving the second and third greatest number
11	of votes, declaration for the two (2) year and four (4) year terms shall be decided by lot.
12	Beginning in 1999, elections shall be held every two (2) years and all vacated council seats shall
13	be filled for a term of four (4) years. The Council Members shall be elected for staggered terms
14	of four years. The mayor shall be elected every four (4) years for a term of four (4) years.
15	"Sec. 4.4. Regulation of Elections. All municipal elections shall be conducted in accordance
16	with the general laws of North Carolina relating to municipal elections, uniform municipal
17	election laws in Chapter 163 of the General Statutes, except as otherwise herein
18	provided.provided by this act."
19	SECTION 1.3.(b) No municipal elections shall be conducted in the City of
20	Hendersonville in 2023. The terms of the two Council members serving on the effective date of
21	this act whose terms are set to expire in 2023 shall be extended by one year. The terms of the
22	Mayor and the two Council members serving on the effective date of this act whose terms are set
23	to expire in 2025 shall be extended by one year. Regular municipal elections shall be conducted
24	in the City of Hendersonville in even-numbered years beginning in 2024.
25	SECTION 1.3.(c) In 2024 and quadrennially thereafter, two Council members shall
26	be elected to serve four-year terms. In 2026 and quadrennially thereafter, a mayor and two
27	Council members shall be elected to serve four-year terms.
28	SECTION 1.4.(a) Section 3.1 of the Charter of the Town of Laurel Park, being S.L.
29	2000-8, reads as rewritten:
30	"Section 3.1. Regular Municipal Elections. Regular municipal elections shall be held <u>at</u>
31	the time of the general election in each odd numbered year even-numbered year. Except as
32	otherwise provided by this act, the election shall be conducted in accordance with the uniform
33	municipal election laws of North Carolina. Elections shall be conducted on a nonpartisan basis
34 25	and the results determined using the nonpartisan plurality method as provided in G.S. 163-292."
35 36	SECTION 1.4.(b) Sections 3.2 and 3.3 of the Charter of the Town of Laurel Park,
30 37	being S.L. 2000-8, are repealed. SECTION 1.4.(c) No municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town of Laurel
38	Park in 2023. The terms of the Mayor and the two Commissioners serving on the effective date
39	of this act whose terms are set to expire in 2023 shall be extended by one year. The terms of the
40	two Commissioners serving on the effective date of this act whose terms are set to expire in 2025
41	shall be extended by one year. Regular municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town of
42	Laurel Park in even-numbered years beginning in 2024.
43	SECTION 1.4.(d) In 2024 and quadrennially thereafter, a mayor and two
44	Commissioners shall be elected to serve four-year terms. In 2026 and quadrennially thereafter,
45	two Commissioners shall be elected to serve four-year terms.
46	SECTION 1.5.(a) Section 3.3 of the Charter of the Town of Mills River, being S.L.
47	2003-242, reads as rewritten:
48	"Section 3.3. Manner of Electing Town Council; Terms of Office. Two of the Council
49	members shall be elected at large from the residents of the Town and three shall be elected from
50	each of Districts 1, 2, and 3 respectively, as provided in Article IV of this Charter. The qualified
51	voters of the entire Town shall elect all the members of the Town Council, and, except as

provided in this section, and they shall serve staggered four-year terms. In 2003, two Council 1 2 members shall be elected at large and they shall serve for four-year terms, and one Council member shall be elected from each of Districts 1, 2, and 3, respectively and they shall serve for 3 4 two-year terms. In 2005, and quadrennially thereafter, one Council member shall be elected from 5 each of Districts 1, 2, and 3 respectively and they shall serve for four year terms. In 2007, and quadrennially thereafter, two members shall be elected at large and they shall serve for four-year 6 7 terms." 8 **SECTION 1.5.(b)** Section 4.1 of the Charter of the Town of Mills River, being S.L. 9 2003-242, reads as rewritten: 10 "Section 4.1. Conduct of Town Elections. Town elections shall be conducted on a nonpartisan basis and the results determined by plurality, as provided in G.S. 163-292. Elections 11 12 shall be conducted by the Henderson County Board of Elections in accordance with general law, except as may be modified by this Charter. Elections." 13 14 **SECTION 1.5.(c)** Section 4.2 of the Charter of the Town of Mills River, being S.L. 15 2003-242, reads as rewritten: 16 "Section 4.2. Regular Municipal Elections; District Boundaries. Regular municipal 17 elections shall be held at the time of the general election in each odd-numbered year even-numbered year. Except as otherwise provided by this act, the election shall be conducted in 18 19 accordance with the uniform municipal election laws of North Carolina. For purpose of the 20 election of Town Council members, the Town is divided into three geographical subdivisions, 21 known as districts, and all qualified voters of the Town may cast a vote for each seat. A written 22 description or map showing the current boundaries of the three election districts shall be 23 maintained in the office of the Town Clerk and shall be available for public inspection. The 24 district boundaries may be amended periodically pursuant to the provisions of general law. 25 Whenever areas are hereafter annexed and made part of the Town, the Town Council shall, by 26 ordinance, redefine and rearrange the three election districts so as to include the annexed areas. 27 The ordinance shall be adopted at least seven days prior to the opening of candidate filing for the 28 municipal election next succeeding the date of any annexation and shall provide for three election 29 districts of approximately equal population. In redefining and rearranging the election district 30 lines, the Town Council shall follow as nearly as practical existing district lines." 31 SECTION 1.5.(d) No municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town of Mills 32 River in 2023. The terms of the two Council members serving on the effective date of this act 33 whose terms are set to expire in 2023 shall be extended by one year. The terms of the three 34 Council members serving on the effective date of this act whose terms are set to expire in 2025 35 shall be extended by one year. Regular municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town of 36 Mills River in even-numbered years beginning in 2024. 37 **SECTION 1.5.(e)** In 2024 and quadrennially thereafter, two Council members shall 38 be elected at-large to serve four-year terms. In 2026 and quadrennially thereafter, one Council 39 member shall be elected from each of Districts 1, 2, and 3, respectively, to serve four-year terms. 40 41 PART II. MUNICIPALITIES IN POLK COUNTY 42 **SECTION 2.1.(a)** Article III of the Charter of the Town of Columbus, being Chapter 43 46 of the 1985 Session Laws, as amended by Town Ordinance No. 68 adopted on February 18, 44 2003, reads as rewritten: 45 **"ARTICLE III. ELECTIONS** 46 "Section 3.1. Regular Municipal Elections. Regular municipal elections shall be held at the 47 time of the general election in each odd-numbered year even-numbered year. Except as otherwise 48 provided by this act, the election shall be conducted in accordance with the uniform municipal

49 election laws of North Carolina. The Mayor and Council members shall be elected by the voters

50 of the Town on an at-large basis, by the nonpartisan plurality method of election.election, as

51 provided in G.S. 163-292.

"Section 3.2. Election of the Council Members. The Council members serving on the date of 1 2 ratification of this Charter may continue to shall serve until expiration of their terms, or until 3 their successors are elected and qualified. Council members shall continue to be elected and to 4 serve on a staggered term system. At each such-municipal election the candidate receiving the 5 highest number of votes shall serve for a term of four years, and the two candidates receiving the 6 next highest number of votes shall serve for a period of two years. 7 "Section 3.3. Election of the Mayor. The Mayor serving on the date of ratification of this 8 Charter may continue to serve until the expiration of his or her term, or shall serve until a 9 successor is elected and qualified. At the regular municipal election in 1985 and every two years thereafter, there The Mayor shall be elected a Mayor to serve as provided in Article II of this 10 11 Charter. 12" 13 **SECTION 2.1.(b)** No municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town of 14 Columbus in 2023. The terms of the Mayor and the two Council members serving on the effective 15 date of this act whose terms are set to expire in 2023 shall be extended by one year. The terms of 16 the two Council members serving on the effective date of this act whose terms are set to expire 17 in 2025 shall be extended by one year. Regular municipal elections shall be conducted in the 18 Town of Columbus in even-numbered years beginning in 2024. 19 **SECTION 2.1.(c)** In 2024 and biennially thereafter, a mayor shall be elected to serve 20 a two-year term and three Council members shall be elected for staggered terms. 21 SECTION 2.2.(a) Notwithstanding the Charter of the City of Saluda, being Chapter 22 5 of the Private Laws of 1881, as amended by Chapter 93 of the Private Laws of 1903, Chapter 23 20 of the Private Laws of 1907, and Chapter 191 of the Private Laws of 1913, regular municipal 24 elections in the City of Saluda for the election of the Mayor and Commissioners shall be held at 25 the time of the general election in even-numbered years. Election of the Mayor and 26 Commissioners shall be on a nonpartisan plurality basis and the results determined in accordance 27 with G.S. 163-292. Except as otherwise provided by this act, the election shall be conducted in 28 accordance with the uniform municipal election laws in Chapter 163 of the General Statutes. 29 **SECTION 2.2.(b)** No municipal elections shall be conducted in the City of Saluda 30 in 2023. The terms of the two Commissioners serving on the effective date of this act whose 31 terms are set to expire in 2023 shall be extended by one year. The terms of the Mayor and the 32 two Commissioners serving on the effective date of this act whose terms are set to expire in 2025 33 shall be extended by one year. Regular municipal elections shall be conducted in the City of 34 Saluda in even-numbered years beginning in 2024. 35 SECTION 2.2.(c) In 2024 and quadrennially thereafter, two Commissioners shall be 36 elected to serve four-year terms. In 2026 and quadrennially thereafter, a mayor and two 37 Commissioners shall be elected to serve four-year terms. 38 SECTION 2.3.(a) Section 3.3 of the Charter of the Town of Tryon, being Chapter 39 441 of the 1971 Session Laws, as amended by S.L. 2013-261, reads as rewritten: 40 "Sec. 3.3. Terms; Qualifications; Vacancies. (a) Except as provided in Section 4.1, the 41 members of the Board of Commissioners shall serve for staggered terms of four years, and the 42 Mayor shall serve for a term of two-four years, beginning the day and hour of the organizational 43 meeting following their election, as established by ordinance in accordance with this Charter; 44 provided, they shall serve until their successors are elected and qualify." 45 46 SECTION 2.3.(b) Section 4.1 of the Charter of the Town of Tryon, being Chapter 47 441 of the 1971 Session Laws, as amended by Town Ordinance No. 2003-7 adopted on August 48 19, 2003, reads as rewritten:

49 "Sec. 4.1. Regular Elections.

50 Regular municipal elections shall be held biennially on the Tuesday after the first (a) 51 Monday in November in May in odd numbered years. at the time of the general election in each

even-numbered year. In each biennial election, there shall be elected two commissioners. 1 2 Election of the mayor and commissioners shall be on a nonpartisan plurality basis and the results determined in accordance with G.S. 163-292. Except as otherwise provided by this act, the 3 4 election shall be conducted in accordance with the uniform municipal election laws in Chapter 5 163 of the General Statutes. (b) 6 Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) above, in 2003 only, there shall be 7 elected three commissioners. The candidates for commissioner who receive the largest and 8 second largest number of votes shall each be elected for a term of four (4) years, and the candidate 9 for commissioner who receives the third largest number of votes shall be elected for a term of 10 two (2) years." **SECTION 2.3.(c)** No municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town of Tryon 11 12 in 2023. The terms of the Mayor and the two Commissioners serving on the effective date of this 13 act whose terms are set to expire in 2023 shall be extended by one year. The terms of the two 14 Commissioners serving on the effective date of this act whose terms are set to expire in 2025 15 shall be extended by one year. Regular municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town of 16 Tryon in even-numbered years beginning in 2024. 17 SECTION 2.3.(d) In 2024 and quadrennially thereafter, a mayor and two 18 Commissioners shall be elected to serve four-year terms. In 2026 and quadrennially thereafter, 19 two Commissioners shall be elected to serve four-year terms. 20 21 PART III. MUNICIPALITIES IN RUTHERFORD COUNTY 22 SECTION 3.1.(a) Section 4 of the Charter of the Town of Bostic, being Chapter 263 23 of the Private Laws of 1913, as amended by Town Resolution adopted on March 2, 2009, reads 24 as rewritten: 25 "Sec. 4. It shall be the duty of the Town Commissioners to provide for an election to be held 26 on the first Tuesday in November, 2009, according to the laws of the State and the Regular 27 municipal elections shall be held at the time of the general election in each even-numbered year. 28 The officers elected shall hold their offices until their successors are elected and qualified. The 29 Town Commissioners shall be composed of 5-five members, each of whom shall be elected for 30 a term staggered terms of four years, provided they shall serve until their successors are elected 31 and qualified. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the terms of the two commissioners receiving the 32 most votes in the 2009 election shall be four years and the terms of the remaining three 33 commissioners in that election shall be two years. Thereafter, the terms of all Town 34 Commissioners shall be four years as referenced above. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the term 35 of the Mayor elected in the 2009 Election shall be four years and thereafter the years. The term 36 of the Mayor shall be four years, as referenced above. years. The Commissioners and Mayor shall 37 be elected according to the nonpartisan plurality election method in accordance with 38 G.S. 163-292. Except as otherwise provided by this act, the election shall be conducted in 39 accordance with the uniform municipal election laws of North Carolina." 40 SECTION 3.1.(b) No municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town of Bostic 41 in 2023. The terms of the three Commissioners serving on the effective date of this act whose 42 terms are set to expire in 2023 shall be extended by one year. The terms of the Mayor and the 43 two Commissioners serving on the effective date of this act whose terms are set to expire in 2025 44 shall be extended by one year. Regular municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town of 45 Bostic in even-numbered years beginning in 2024. 46 **SECTION 3.1.(c)** In 2024 and quadrennially thereafter, three Commissioners shall 47 be elected to serve four-year terms. In 2026 and quadrennially thereafter, a mayor and two 48 Commissioners shall be elected to serve four-year terms.

49 SECTION 3.2.(a) Section 3-3 of the Charter of Chimney Rock Village, being
50 Chapter 444 of the 1991 Session Laws, reads as rewritten:

"Sec. 3-3. Term of Office of Council Members. Members of the Council are elected to 1 2 staggered four-year terms. At the initial election in 1991, the three highest vote getters shall be 3 elected to four-year terms and the next two highest vote getters shall be elected to two-year terms. 4 In 1993 and quadrennially thereafter, two members of the Council shall be elected for four-year 5 terms. In 1995 and quadrennially thereafter, three members of the Council shall be elected for 6 four-year terms." 7 **SECTION 3.2.(b)** Section 4-1 of the Charter of Chimney Rock Village, being 8 Chapter 444 of the 1991 Session Laws, reads as rewritten: 9 "Sec. 4-1. Conduct of Village Elections. Regular municipal elections shall be held at the 10 time of the general election in each even-numbered year. Village officers shall be elected on a nonpartisan basis and results determined by a plurality as provided in G.S. 163-292. Except as 11 12 otherwise provided by this act, the election shall be conducted in accordance with the uniform 13 municipal election laws in Chapter 163 of the General Statutes." 14 **SECTION 3.2.(c)** No municipal elections shall be conducted in Chimney Rock 15 Village in 2023. The terms of the three Council members serving on the effective date of this act 16 whose terms are set to expire in 2023 shall be extended by one year. The terms of the two Council 17 members serving on the effective date of this act whose terms are set to expire in 2025 shall be 18 extended by one year. Regular municipal elections shall be conducted in Chimney Rock Village 19 in even-numbered years beginning in 2024. 20 SECTION 3.2.(d) In 2024 and quadrennially thereafter, three Council members shall 21 be elected to serve four-year terms. In 2026 and quadrennially thereafter, two Council members 22 shall be elected to serve four-year terms. 23 **SECTION 3.3.(a)** Article III of the Charter of the Town of Ellenboro, being Chapter 24 425 of the 1983 Session Laws, as amended by S.L. 2007-310, reads as rewritten: 25 "ARTICLE III. 26 "ELECTIONS. 27 "Sec. 3.1. Regular Municipal Elections; Conduct and Method of Election. Regular municipal 28 elections shall be held in the Town every two years in odd numbered years and at the time of the 29 general election in each even-numbered year. Except as otherwise provided by this act, the 30 election shall be conducted in accordance with the uniform municipal election laws of North 31 Carolina. The Mayor and members of the Council shall be elected according to the nonpartisan 32 plurality method of election.election in accordance with G.S. 163-292. 33 "Sec. 3.2. Election of Council Members. Council members shall be elected to serve staggered 34 four-year terms. All council members shall be nominated and voted upon by the voters of the 35 Town voting at large. At the regular municipal election in 2007, the persons receiving the two 36 highest numbers of votes are elected to four-year terms, and the three persons receiving the next 37 highest numbers of votes are elected to two-year terms. In 2009 and quadrennially thereafter, 38 three members are elected for four-year terms. In 2011 and quadrennially thereafter, two 39 members are elected for four-year terms. 40 "Sec. 3.3. Election of the Mayor. At the regular municipal election in 2007, and quadrennially 41 thereafter, there. The Mayor shall be elected a Mayor to serve a term of four years. The Mayor 42 shall be elected by the voters of the Town voting at large." 43 SECTION 3.3.(b) No municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town of 44 Ellenboro in 2023. The terms of the Mayor and the two Council members serving on the effective 45 date of this act whose terms are set to expire in 2023 shall be extended by one year. The terms of 46 the three Council members serving on the effective date of this act whose terms are set to expire 47 in 2025 shall be extended by one year. Regular municipal elections shall be conducted in the 48 Town of Ellenboro in even-numbered years beginning in 2024. 49 SECTION 3.3.(c) In 2024 and quadrennially thereafter, a mayor and two Council 50 members shall be elected to serve four-year terms. In 2026 and quadrennially thereafter, three 51 Council members shall be elected to serve four-year terms.

1 2	SECTION 3.4.(a) Article III of the Charter of the Town of Forest City, being Chapter 209 of the 1981 Session Laws, as amended by the Town Ordinance adopted on June 18, 2012,
3	reads as rewritten:
4	"ARTICLE III.
5	"ELECTIONS.
6	"Sec. 3.1. Regular municipal elections; conduct.–Regular municipal elections shall be held
7	in the Town every two years in odd-numbered years, and at the time of the general election in
8	each even-numbered year. Except as otherwise provided by this act, the election shall be
9 10	conducted in accordance with the uniform municipal election laws of North Carolina. The Mayor and members of the Board shall be elected according to the nonpartisan plurality election
11	method.method in accordance with G.S. 163-292.
12	"Sec. 3.2. Election of the Mayor. At the regular municipal election in 2013, and every four
13	years thereafter, there The Mayor shall be elected a Mayor to serve a term of four years. The
14	Mayor shall be elected by the qualified voters of the Town voting at large.
15	"Sec. 3.3. Election of Board members. At the regular municipal election to be held in 2003,
16	the three candidates who receive the highest number of votes shall be elected for four-year terms,
17	while the two candidates who receive the next highest number of votes shall be elected to
18	two-year terms. At the regular municipal election to be held in 2005 and every four years
19	thereafter, two members of the Board of Commissioners shall be elected to serve four year terms.
20	At the regular municipal election to be held in 2007, and every four years thereafter, three
21	members Members of the Board of Commissioners shall be elected to serve staggered four-year
22	terms."
23	SECTION 3.4.(b) No municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town of Forest
24	City in 2023. The terms of the three Board members serving on the effective date of this act
25	whose terms are set to expire in 2023 shall be extended by one year. The terms of the Mayor and
26 27	the two Board members serving on the effective date of this act whose terms are set to expire in 2025 shall be extended by one user. Becaler reprincipal elections shall be early ducted in the Term
27	2025 shall be extended by one year. Regular municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town of Forest City in gues numbered wears beginning in 2024
28 29	of Forest City in even-numbered years beginning in 2024. SECTION 3.4.(c) In 2024 and quadrennially thereafter, three Board members shall
29 30	be elected to serve four-year terms. In 2026 and quadrennially thereafter, a mayor and two Board
31	members shall be elected to serve four-year terms.
32	SECTION 3.5.(a) Section 2.3 of the Charter of the Town of Lake Lure, being
33	Chapter 194 of the 1987 Session Laws, reads as rewritten:
34	"Section 2.3 Term of Office of Board Members. Members of the Board are elected to
35	four-year staggered terms. The Board members serving on the date of ratification of this Charter
36	shall serve until the expiration of their terms. In the each municipal election in 1987 and every
37	four years thereafter, election, two members of the Board shall be elected. In the municipal
38	election in 1989 and every four years thereafter, two members of the Board shall be elected."
39	SECTION 3.5.(b) Section 3.1 of the Charter of the Town of Lake Lure, being
40	Chapter 194 of the 1987 Session Laws, reads as rewritten:
41	"Section 3.1. Nonpartisan Plurality Method. Regular municipal elections shall be held at
42	the time of the general election in each even-numbered year. Town officers are elected on a
43	nonpartisan basis, and the results determined by a plurality, as provided in G.S. 163-292. Except
44	as otherwise provided by this act, the election shall be conducted in accordance with the uniform
45	municipal election laws in Chapter 163 of the General Statutes."
46	SECTION 3.5.(c) No municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town of Lake
47	Lure in 2023. The terms of the Mayor and the two Board members serving on the effective date
48	of this act whose terms are set to expire in 2023 shall be extended by one year. The terms of the
49	two Board members serving on the effective date of this act whose terms are set to expire in 2025
50	shall be extended by one year. Regular municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town of
51	Lake Lure in even-numbered years beginning in 2024.

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SECTION 3.5.(d) In 2024 and biennially thereafter, a mayor shall be elected to serve 1 2 a two-year term. In 2024 and quadrennially thereafter, two Board members shall be elected to 3 serve four-year terms. In 2026 and quadrennially thereafter, two Board members shall be elected 4 to serve four-year terms. 5 **SECTION 3.6.(a)** Notwithstanding the Charter of the Town of Ruth, being Chapter 6 55 of the Private Laws of 1893, as amended by Chapter 53 of the Public Laws of 1939, regular 7 municipal elections in the Town of Ruth for the election of Mayor and Commissioners shall be 8 held at the time of the general election in an even-numbered year. The Mayor and Commissioners 9 shall be elected to serve four-year terms. Election of the Mayor and Commissioners shall be on 10 a nonpartisan plurality basis and the results determined in accordance with G.S. 163-292. Except as otherwise provided by this act, the election shall be conducted in accordance with the uniform 11 12 municipal election laws in Chapter 163 of the General Statutes. 13 **SECTION 3.6.(b)** No municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town of Ruth 14 in 2023. The terms of the Mayor and all commissioners serving on the effective date of this act 15 whose terms are set to expire in 2023 shall be extended by one year. Regular municipal elections 16 shall be conducted in the Town of Ruth in even-numbered years beginning in 2024. 17 **SECTION 3.7.(a)** Article II of the Charter of the Town of Rutherfordton, as 18 amended, being Chapter 350 of the 1979 Session Laws, reads as rewritten: 19 "ARTICLE II. MAYOR AND COUNCIL. 20 21 "Section 2.2. Council; Composition; Terms of Office. The Town Council shall be composed 22 of four members, each of whom shall be elected by and from the qualified voters of the Town 23 for staggered terms of two-four years each in the manner provided by Article III of this Charter, 24 provided they shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified. 25 "Section 2.3. Mayor; Term of Office; Duties. The Mayor shall be elected by and from the 26 qualified voters of the Town in the manner provided by Article III of this Charter to serve for a 27 term of two-four years, or until his-a successor is elected and qualified. The Mayor shall be the 28 official head of the Town government and shall preside at all meetings of the Council. He-The 29 Mayor shall have the right to vote only when there are an equal number of votes in the affirmative 30 and the negative on any motion before the Council. The Mayor shall exercise such powers and 31 perform such duties as presently are or hereafter may be conferred upon him-the Mayor by the 32 General Statutes of North Carolina, by this Charter, and by the ordinances of the Town. 33" 34 SECTION 3.7.(b) Article III of the Charter of the Town of Rutherfordton, being 35 Chapter 350 of the 1979 Session Laws, as amended, reads as rewritten: 36 "ARTICLE III. ELECTIONS. 37 "Section 3.1. Regular Municipal Elections; Conduct and Method of Election. Regular 38 municipal elections shall be held in the Town every two years in odd numbered years and at the 39 time of the general election in each even-numbered year. Except as otherwise provided by this 40 act, the election shall be conducted in accordance with the uniform municipal election laws of North Carolina. The Mayor and members of the Council shall be elected according to the 41 42 nonpartisan plurality method.method in accordance with G.S. 163-292. 43 "Section 3.2. Election of the Mayor. At the regular municipal election in 1979, and biennially 44 thereafter, there shall be elected a Mayor to serve a term of two years. The Mayor shall be elected 45 by all the voters of the Town voting at large." 46 SECTION 3.7.(c) No municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town of 47 Rutherfordton in 2023. The terms of the two Council members serving on the effective date of 48 this act whose terms are set to expire in 2023 shall be extended by one year. The terms of the 49 Mayor and the two Council members serving on the effective date of this act whose terms are set 50 to expire in 2025 shall be extended by one year. Regular municipal elections shall be conducted 51 in the Town of Rutherfordton in even-numbered years beginning in 2024.

SECTION 3.7.(d) In 2024 and quadrennially thereafter, two Council members shall 1 2 be elected to serve four-year terms. In 2026 and quadrennially thereafter, a mayor and two 3 Council members shall be elected to serve four-year terms. 4 **SECTION 3.8.(a)** Article IV of the Charter of the Town of Spindale, being Chapter 5 378 of the 1975 Session Laws, as amended by Town Ordinance adopted on April 15, 1996, reads 6 as rewritten: 7 "ARTICLE IV. Elections. 8 "Sec. 4.1. Regular municipal elections. Regular municipal elections shall be held biennially 9 in odd-numbered years on the day set by general law for municipal elections. In the 1997 regular 10 municipal election and quadrennially thereafter, there at the time of the general election in each 11 even-numbered year. The mayor shall be elected a mayor for a term of four years. In the 1997 12 regular municipal election and quadrennially thereafter there shall be elected two Town 13 Commissioners for terms of four years each. The two Town Commissioners that shall be elected 14 to the staggered four year terms in the 1997 regular municipal election terms will be the two 15 highest vote getters. In the 1997 regular municipal election the third, fourth, and fifth highest vote getters for the Town Commissioner seats will serve two year terms. In the 1999 regular 16 17 municipal election and quadrennially thereafter there shall be three Town Commissioners elected for a term of four years each. This ordinance as amended shall become effective immediately. 18 19 "Sec. 4.2. Regulation of elections. All-The mayor and Town Commissioners shall be elected 20 according to the nonpartisan plurality election method in accordance with G.S. 163-292. Except 21 as otherwise provided by this act, town elections shall be conducted in accordance with the 22 general laws of North Carolina relating to municipal elections." 23 SECTION 3.8.(b) No municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town of 24 Spindale in 2023. The terms of the three Commissioners serving on the effective date of this act 25 whose terms are set to expire in 2023 shall be extended by one year. The terms of the Mayor and 26 the two Commissioners serving on the effective date of this act whose terms are set to expire in 27 2025 shall be extended by one year. Regular municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town 28 of Spindale in even-numbered years beginning in 2024. 29 **SECTION 3.8.(c)** In 2024 and quadrennially thereafter, three Commissioners shall 30 be elected to serve four-year terms. In 2026 and quadrennially thereafter, a mayor and two

31 Commissioners shall be elected to serve four-year terms.

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PART IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

34 SECTION 4.1. This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to elections
35 held on or after that date.