

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 271
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H271-PCS40568-STE-12

Short Title: Cabarrus Co Local Omnibus.

(Local)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 5, 2025

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE A REFERENDUM IN EACH MUNICIPALITY WHOLLY
3 LOCATED WITHIN CABARRUS COUNTY ON WHETHER TO CHANGE THE
4 METHOD OF ELECTION FROM NONPARTISAN TO PARTISAN; AND TO MODIFY
5 THE PROCESS FOR FILLING VACANCIES ON THE CABARRUS COUNTY BOARD
6 OF COMMISSIONERS.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.(a)** Section 2.3 of the Charter of the City of Concord, being Section 1
9 of Chapter 861 of the 1985 Session Laws, as amended by City Ordinance No. 96-105, adopted
10 on November 14, 1996, reads as rewritten:

11 "Sec. 2.3. City Council; composition; terms of office. The City Council shall be composed
12 of seven members, each of whom shall be elected by and from the qualified voters of the city for
13 staggered terms of four years each in the manner provided by Article III of this Charter, provided
14 they shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified."

15 **SECTION 1.(b)** Section 3.1 of the Charter of the City of Concord, being Section 1
16 of Chapter 861 of the 1985 Session Laws, as amended by Ordinance No. 1995-02-09, adopted
17 on February 9, 1995, and Ordinance No. 96-105, adopted on November 14, 1996, reads as
18 rewritten:

19 "Sec. 3.1. Regular municipal elections; conduct and method of election. ~~Pursuant to G.S.~~
20 ~~160A-101, the Charter of the City of Concord, as set forth in Chapter 861 of the 1985 Session~~
21 ~~Laws of North Carolina, as amended, is hereby further amended to implement nonpartisan~~
22 ~~plurality for elections (G.S. 163-292) of the City Council.~~ Regular municipal elections in the City
23 of Concord shall be held in the odd-numbered years and shall be conducted in accordance with
24 the uniform municipal election laws of North Carolina. The Mayor and the City Council shall be
25 elected on a partisan basis, as provided in G.S. 163-291."

26 **SECTION 1.(c)** This section shall not affect the filling of a vacancy that occurs for
27 the city officers of the City of Concord for a seat elected prior to the effective date of this section.

28 **SECTION 1.(d)** The question of changing the method of election shall be submitted
29 to the qualified voters of the City of Concord at the municipal general election to be held on
30 November 3, 2025, which election shall be conducted in accordance with the laws governing
31 elections at that time. The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

32 "[] FOR [] AGAINST

33 Changing the method of election for the city officers of the City of Concord from
34 nonpartisan to partisan to officially disclose political affiliation of partisan candidates on the
35 ballot."



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1 **SECTION 1.(e)** The Cabarrus County Board of Elections shall certify the results of
2 the referendum conducted under subsection (d) of this section. If the certification from the
3 Cabarrus County Board of Elections reflects that a majority of votes cast on the question are in
4 favor of the referendum set out in subsection (d) of this section, subsections (a) through (c) of
5 this section become effective at the first regular meeting of the Concord City Council in
6 December 2027, and elections in 2027 and thereafter shall be conducted accordingly.

7 **SECTION 2.(a)** Section 4.1 of the Charter of the Town of Harrisburg, being Section
8 4 of Chapter 111 of the 1973 Session Laws, as amended by Town Ordinance adopted on July 13,
9 2015, reads as rewritten:

10 "Sec. 4.1. Regular Municipal Elections. Regular municipal elections shall be held ~~on the~~
11 ~~Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each in odd-numbered year, beginning in 1973.~~
12 ~~Council members shall be elected on a nonpartisan basis and the results determined by plurality,~~
13 ~~as approved in the North Carolina General Statutes years. Town officers shall be elected on a~~
14 ~~partisan basis, as provided in G.S. 163-291."~~

15 **SECTION 2.(b)** This section shall not affect the filling of a vacancy that occurs for
16 the town officers of the Town of Harrisburg for a seat elected prior to the effective date of this
17 section.

18 **SECTION 2.(c)** The question of changing the method of election shall be submitted
19 to the qualified voters of the Town of Harrisburg at the municipal general election to be held on
20 November 3, 2025, which election shall be conducted in accordance with the laws governing
21 elections at that time. The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

22 " FOR AGAINST

23 Changing the method of election for the town officers of the Town of Harrisburg from
24 nonpartisan to partisan to officially disclose political affiliation of partisan candidates on the
25 ballot."

26 **SECTION 2.(d)** The Cabarrus County Board of Elections shall certify the results of
27 the referendum conducted under subsection (c) of this section. If the certification from the
28 Cabarrus County Board of Elections reflects that a majority of votes cast on the question are in
29 favor of the referendum set out in subsection (c) of this section, subsections (a) and (b) of this
30 section become effective at the first regular meeting of the Harrisburg Town Council in
31 December 2027, and elections in 2027 and thereafter shall be conducted accordingly.

32 **SECTION 3.(a)** Section 4.1 of the Charter of the Town of Midland, being Section 1
33 of S.L. 2000-91, reads as rewritten:

34 "Section 4.1. **Conduct of Town Elections.** Regular municipal elections shall be held in each
35 odd-numbered year in accordance with the uniform municipal election laws of North Carolina.
36 Elections shall be conducted on a ~~nonpartisan basis and results determined by a plurality as~~
37 ~~provided in G.S. 163-292-partisan basis, as provided in G.S. 163-291."~~

38 **SECTION 3.(b)** This section shall not affect the filling of a vacancy that occurs for
39 the town officers of the Town of Midland for a seat elected prior to the effective date of this
40 section.

41 **SECTION 3.(c)** The question of changing the method of election shall be submitted
42 to the qualified voters of the Town of Midland at the municipal general election to be held on
43 November 3, 2025, which election shall be conducted in accordance with the laws governing
44 elections at that time. The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

45 " FOR AGAINST

46 Changing the method of election for the town officers of the Town of Midland from
47 nonpartisan to partisan to officially disclose political affiliation of partisan candidates on the
48 ballot."

49 **SECTION 3.(d)** The Cabarrus County Board of Elections shall certify the results of
50 the referendum conducted under subsection (c) of this section. If the certification from the
51 Cabarrus County Board of Elections reflects that a majority of votes cast on the question are in

1 favor of the referendum set out in subsection (c) of this section, subsections (a) and (b) of this
2 section become effective at the first regular meeting of the Midland Town Council in December
3 2027, and elections in 2027 and thereafter shall be conducted accordingly.

4 **SECTION 4.(a)** Section 3.2 of the Charter of the Town of Mount Pleasant, being
5 Chapter 77 of the Private Laws of 1883, as amended by Town Ordinance adopted on February
6 11, 2019, reads as rewritten:

7 **"Section 3.2. Manner of Election; Term of Office**

8 The qualified voters of the entire Town shall elect the Mayor and members of the Town Board
9 of Commissioners that shall serve staggered four (4)-year terms. ~~Nonpartisan plurality Regular~~
10 municipal elections shall take place every two years, be held in odd-numbered years, with three
11 ~~commissioners being elected during one election cycle, and two commissioners and the Mayor~~
12 ~~during the next election cycle, and so on. Absentee ballots are permitted pursuant to Board of~~
13 ~~Elections requirements. The present Mayor, Commissioners and other officers of Mount Pleasant~~
14 ~~shall hold said offices with all the powers, privileges, rights and responsibilities which this charter~~
15 ~~and the former charter conferred until their successors are elected or appointed and~~
16 qualified years and shall be conducted in accordance with the uniform municipal election laws
17 of North Carolina. The Town officers shall be elected on a partisan basis, as provided in
18 G.S. 163-291."

19 **SECTION 4.(b)** This section shall not affect the filling of a vacancy that occurs for
20 the town officers of the Town of Mount Pleasant for a seat elected prior to the effective date of
21 this section.

22 **SECTION 4.(c)** The question of changing the method of election shall be submitted
23 to the qualified voters of the Town of Mount Pleasant at the municipal general election to be held
24 on November 3, 2025, which election shall be conducted in accordance with the laws governing
25 elections at that time. The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

26 "[] FOR [] AGAINST

27 Changing the method of election for the town officers of the Town of Mount Pleasant
28 from nonpartisan to partisan to officially disclose political affiliation of partisan candidates on
29 the ballot."

30 **SECTION 4.(d)** The Cabarrus County Board of Elections shall certify the results of
31 the referendum conducted under subsection (c) of this section. If the certification from the
32 Cabarrus County Board of Elections reflects that a majority of votes cast on the question are in
33 favor of the referendum set out in subsection (c) of this section, subsections (a) and (b) of this
34 section become effective at the first regular meeting of the Mount Pleasant Town Council in
35 December 2027, and elections in 2027 and thereafter shall be conducted accordingly.

36 **SECTION 5.(a)** G.S. 153A-27.1(h), as amended by S.L. 2025-3, reads as rewritten:

37 "(h) This section shall apply only in the following counties: Alamance, Alexander,
38 Alleghany, Avery, Beaufort, Brunswick, Buncombe, Caldwell, Carteret, Cabarrus, Caswell,
39 Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Cumberland, Dare, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Graham, Guilford,
40 Harnett, Haywood, Henderson, Hyde, Jackson, Lee, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell,
41 Mecklenburg, Moore, Onslow, Pender, Polk, Randolph, Rockingham, Rutherford, Sampson,
42 Stanly, Stokes, Transylvania, and Yancey."

43 **SECTION 5.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to
44 vacancies filled on or after that date.

45 **SECTION 6.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes law
46 and applies to elections held on or after that date.