

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 1038
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H1038-PCS30621-CHe-23

Short Title: At-Large Elections/Jacksonville City Council.

(Local)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 23, 2026

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL
3 BE ELECTED AT-LARGE.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 2-8 of the Charter of the City of Jacksonville, being Chapter
6 911 of the 1967 Session Laws, as amended by City Ordinance No. 89-21 adopted on April 26,
7 1989, and City Ordinance No. 06-59 adopted on November 21, 2006, reads as rewritten:

8 "Sec. 2-8. – Election of mayor and council – Generally.

9 At a regular election to be held by the Onslow County Board of Elections on the Tuesday
10 after the first Monday in November, there shall be elected a mayor and six ~~councilmembers,~~
11 Council Members, all of whom shall reside within the city and who shall run and be elected ~~in~~
12 ~~the following manner: Two of the councilmembers shall run at large and four of the~~
13 ~~councilmembers shall be elected from the wards established by the City of Jacksonville under~~
14 ~~this ordinance and map published herewith or as such wards may hereafter be constituted, and~~
15 ~~there shall be elected only one councilmember from each ward who shall be a resident of the~~
16 ~~ward for which he is elected and shall be voted on by the qualified voters of such ward. The~~
17 ~~candidate receiving the highest number of votes for the office of councilmember from the ward~~
18 ~~of his residence shall be declared elected to that office. The two candidates running at large~~
19 ~~shall be voted on by all qualified voters of the city and the two candidates running at large who~~
20 ~~receive the highest number of votes for the office of councilmember shall be declared elected~~
21 ~~to that office. The candidate for mayor shall be elected by the electors of the city at large. The~~
22 ~~candidate receiving the highest number of votes for the office of mayor shall be declared~~
23 ~~elected mayor.~~

24 ~~Effective December 27, 2006, at the next regular municipal election following~~
25 ~~pre-clearance of this Charter Amendment by the Department of Justice, if said pre-clearance~~
26 ~~occurs on or before the last day of the filing period for said election, the candidates receiving~~
27 ~~the highest number of votes for the Office of Mayor and the candidates receiving the highest~~
28 ~~number of votes for Ward 3 and Ward 4 (minority ward) Council Members shall be elected for~~
29 ~~an initial four (4) year term; and the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes for~~
30 ~~At-Large Council Members and the candidates receiving the highest number of votes for Ward~~
31 ~~1 (minority ward) and Ward 2 Council Members shall be elected for an initial two (2) year~~
32 ~~term. Subsequent elections for the Mayor and all City Council Members shall be for four-year~~
33 ~~terms and until their successors are elected and qualified at-large by the qualified voters of the~~
34 ~~entire City of Jacksonville. The mayor shall serve a four-year term and until a successor is~~
35 ~~elected and qualified. Council Members shall serve four-year staggered terms and until their~~
36 ~~successors are elected and qualified."~~



1 **SECTION 2.** This act shall not affect the filling of a vacancy that occurs for the
2 officers in the City of Jacksonville for a seat elected prior to the effective date of this act. Any
3 person appointed to fill a vacancy for a Council Member seat representing a ward shall be a
4 resident of the ward in which the vacancy occurs.

5 **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this act becomes effective at the time of the organizational
6 meeting held in accordance with G.S. 160A-68 in December 2027. In order to implement Section
7 1 of this act, the 2027 elections shall be conducted as if the provisions of this section were already
8 in effect. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law and applies to elections held
9 on or after that date.