

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 1217  
Committee Substitute Favorable 6/23/26

Short Title: Norlina/Even-Yr Elect./4-Yr Staggered Terms.

(Local)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 5, 2026

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE TOWN OF NORLINA BE CONDUCTED IN EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS AND TO EXTEND THE TERMS OF OFFICE FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICERS IN THE TOWN OF NORLINA FROM TWO YEARS TO STAGGERED FOUR-YEAR TERMS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** Section 4 of the Charter of the Town of Norlina, being Chapter 1020 of the 1947 Session Laws, reads as rewritten:

"Sec. 4. Creation, Salary and Compensation of Mayor and Board of Commissioners. Except as otherwise provided in this ~~charter~~ charter, all powers of the town shall be vested in a board of commissioners of ~~three~~ five members and a mayor nominated and elected from the town at ~~large~~ in the manner hereinafter provided. ~~large~~. The term of office of the mayor and shall be elected to serve a four-year term. The members of the board of commissioners shall be for two years and until their successors are elected and qualified. ~~elected to serve staggered four-year terms.~~ If a vacancy occurs in the office of mayor or commissioners, it shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by a majority vote of the remaining members of the board of commissioners. Each member of the board of commissioners shall receive a salary the amount of which shall be prescribed by ordinance. Members of the board of commissioners shall be qualified electors of the town. A member of the board of commissioners ceasing to possess any of the qualifications specified in this Section, or convicted of crime while in office, shall immediately forfeit his office."

**SECTION 2.** Section 12 of the Charter of the Town of Norlina, being Chapter 1020 of the 1947 Session Laws, reads as rewritten:

"Sec. 12. Municipal Elections. ~~The regular election for the choice of~~ Regular municipal elections shall be held at the time of the general election in each even-numbered year. The mayor and members of the board of commissioners shall be held on Tuesday following the first Monday in May in odd-numbered years. The board of commissioners may, by resolution, order a special election, fix the time for holding the same, and provide all means for holding such special election. ~~elected on a nonpartisan plurality basis in accordance with G.S. 163-292. Except as otherwise provided, elections shall be held and conducted in accordance with the uniform municipal election laws of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes.~~"

**SECTION 3.** Sections 13 through 16 of the Charter of the Town of Norlina, being Chapter 1020 of the 1947 Session Laws, are repealed.

**SECTION 4.** Chapter 95 of the 1969 Session Laws is repealed.

**SECTION 5.** No municipal elections shall be conducted in the Town of Norlina in 2027. The terms of office for the mayor and five commissioners serving on the effective date of



1 this act whose terms are set to expire in 2027 shall be extended by one year. Regular municipal  
2 elections in the Town of Norlina shall resume in even-numbered years beginning in 2028.  
3 Following the 2028 municipal election, the mayor and the two board of commissioner candidates  
4 receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to serve four-year terms. The three board  
5 of commissioner candidates receiving the next highest number of votes shall be elected to serve  
6 two-year terms. In 2030 and every four years thereafter, three members of the board of  
7 commissioners shall be elected to serve four-year terms. In 2032 and every four years thereafter,  
8 a mayor and two commissioners shall be elected to serve four-year terms.

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