HOUSE BILL 504:
City of Lincolnton/Even-Yr Elect'n/Mayor Term.

Committee:	House State and Local Government I. If favorable, re-refer to Elections and Ethics Law	**Date:**	April 5, 2017
Introduced by:	Rep. Saine	**Prepared by:**	Giles Perry
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H504-CSBK-17		Jessica Sammons Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: The proposed committee substitute (PCS) for House Bill 504 would change the City of Lincolnton's regular municipal election cycle from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years, increase the mayor's term from two years to four years, and extend the terms of current City officers one year to implement the new election schedule.

The PCS allows the Lincoln County Board of Elections to set the date and time completed petitions must be submitted by unaffiliated candidates seeking to be listed on the ballot for a municipal office in advance of the Lincolnton city election.

CURRENT LAW: Generally, municipal elections are held in odd-numbered years. G.S. 163-279. In the City of Lincolnton, officers consist of a mayor and four City Council members. The mayor serves a two-year term, and Council members serve staggered four-year terms. The Council members are each elected from single-member residency wards by a city-wide vote. To be a candidate or be elected for a Council member seat, a person must reside in the ward he or she seeks to represent, but a member may continue to serve his or her remaining term of office upon moving to another ward within the city.

Elections in the City of Lincolnton are conducted according to the partisan primary and election method. G.S. 163-291. Partisan municipal elections are held on Tuesday after the first Monday in November, with the first primary held on the second Tuesday after Labor Day, and the second primary, if required, held on the fourth Tuesday before the election. G.S. 163-279.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS for House Bill 504 would do the following:

- Provide that regular municipal elections for officers for the City of Lincolnton must be held in even-numbered years, beginning in 2018.

- Increase the term of office for Mayor of the City of Lincolnton from two years to four years, effective in 2018.

- Implement changes to the election schedule for the City of Lincolnton, by eliminating elections in 2017.

  o The current mayor would serve until 2018. The next mayor would be elected in 2018, and stand for election for a four-year term. The current Council members from Wards 1 and 3 would serve until 2018, and stand for election for a four-year term. The current Council members from Wards 2 and 4 would serve until 2020, and stand for election for a four-year term.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director

H504-SMBK-41 CSBK-17 -v-3

Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would be effective when it becomes law, and applies to elections held on or after that day.

BACKGROUND: The City of Lincolnton is located in Lincoln County, and has a population of 10,558.

Regular municipal elections in most municipalities are held in odd-numbered years. The following municipalities hold regular municipal elections in even-numbered years:

- Albemarle, Badin, Locust, Misenheimer, New London, Norwood, Oakboro, Red Cross, Richfield, Stanfield *(all municipalities in Stanly County)* (S.L. 2015-253)
- Archdale *(Randolph, Guilford Counties)* (S.L. 2007-41)
- Dobson *(Surry County)* (S.L. 2012-47)
- Elkin *(Surry, Wilkes Counties)* (S.L. 2014-35)
- Pilot Mountain *(Surry County)* (S.L. 2012-47)
- Winston-Salem *(Forsyth County)* (S.L. 2011-141)
- High Point *(Guilford, Davidson, Randolph, Forsyth Counties)* (S.L. 2006-171) – However, S.L. 2013-261 changed the method of election for municipal elections back to odd-numbered years, beginning with the 2017 election.