



# HOUSE BILL 1162: Make Catawba Board of Ed. Elections Partisan.

2021-2022 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Local Government. If favorable, re- refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	June 14, 2022
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Adams, Setzer	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Jessica Sammons Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition H1162-CSBK-17		

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**OVERVIEW:** *The proposed committee substitute (PCS) to House Bill 1162 would change the method of election of the Catawba County Board of Education from nonpartisan to partisan and would alter the process for filling vacancies on the Board, beginning in 2024.*

**CURRENT LAW:** The Catawba County Board of Education consists of seven members elected for staggered four-year terms. Members are elected at-large by the qualified voters of Catawba County residing outside of the boundaries of the Hickory Administrative School Unit and the Newton-Conover Administrative School Unit.

Elections are conducted in even-numbered years using the nonpartisan plurality method. G.S. 163-292. The election is held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. G.S. 163-279. Members take office on the first Monday in December following their election. G.S. 115C-37(d).

Vacancies are filled by the remaining members of the Board, with the appointee serving until the next election of Board members, at which time the remaining unexpired term will be filled by election. G.S. 115C-37(f).

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The PCS to House Bill 1162 would provide that, beginning in 2024, the members of the Catawba County Board of Education would be elected on a partisan basis. Candidates would be nominated and elected at the same time and in the same manner as other county officers.

For Board members in 2024 and thereafter, vacancies for positions elected on a partisan basis would be filled by the remaining members of the Board, provided that the remaining members of the Board must consult with the county executive committee of the relevant political party before filling a vacancy and must appoint that executive committee's nominee, if both of the following apply:

- The recommendation is made within 30 days after the seat becomes vacant.
- The county executive committee restricted voting to committee member who represent precincts all or part of which are within the territory of the Catawba County Board of Education.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** December 1, 2023, and applies to elections held in 2024 and thereafter.

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