



SENATE BILL 51: Even-Year Elect/Trent Woods & River Bend.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	April 9, 2021
Introduced by:	Sen. Sanderson	Prepared by:	Sarah Pilon*
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: Senate Bill 51 would change the regular municipal election cycle from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years for the Towns of River Bend and Trent Woods. SB51 would also extend the terms of the current officers by one year to implement the new election cycle.

CURRENT LAW: Generally, municipal elections are held in odd-numbered years. The Town of Trent Woods conducts municipal elections in odd-numbered years, with the last municipal election occurring November 2019. Elections are conducted on a nonpartisan primary and election method. G.S. 163-279(a)(3) and G.S. 163-294.

The following chart summarizes the current Town officers and their terms of office in the Town of River Bend and the Town of Trent Woods:

City	Town Officers	Term of Officers	Current Terms of Officers
River Bend (Craven Co.)	Mayor 3 City Council members	<u>Mayor:</u> two years <u>Council members:</u> two years	<u>Mayor:</u> term expires in 2021 <u>Council members:</u> terms expire in 2021
Trent Woods (Craven Co.)	Mayor Board of Town Commissioners (3 members, one of which is the mayor pro tempore)	<u>Mayor:</u> two years <u>Commissioners:</u> two years	<u>Mayor:</u> term expires in 2021 <u>Commissioners:</u> terms expire in 2021

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 51 would amend the charters for the Town of River Bend and Town of Trent Woods to require that municipal elections be held in even-numbered years, beginning in 2022. To implement this change, no municipal elections would be conducted in the Town of River Bend or the Town of Trent Woods in 2021, and the terms of office for the mayor and commissioners or city council members elected in 2019 would be extended by one year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to elections held on or after that date.

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

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- 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).
- Asheville (Buncombe County) (S.L. 2018-123).
- Biltmore Forest, Black Mountain, (Buncombe County) and Ronda (Wilkes County) (S.L. 2019-27).
- Dobson (Surry County) (S.L. 2012-47).
- Elkin (Surry, Wilkes Counties) (S.L. 2014-35).
- Jonesville, Boonville, East Bend (Yadkin County) (S.L. 2017-56).
- Lincolnton (Lincoln County) (S.L. 2017-62).
- Montreat (Buncombe County) (S.L. 2019-28).
- Pilot Mountain (Surry County) (S.L. 2012-47).
- Troy, Star (Montgomery County) (S.L. 2017-12).
- Winston-Salem (Forsyth County) (S.L. 2011-141).

*Brad Krehely, Jessica Sammons, and Hillary Woodard, Staff Attorneys for the Legislative Analysis Division, contributed to the drafting of this summary.