



HOUSE BILL 1064: Muni. Elect. Forsyth/W-S Bd. Ed. Vacancies.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee: Senate State and Local Government. If **Date:** June 20, 2024
favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of
the Senate

Introduced by: Rep. Miller

Prepared by: Jessica Sammons

Analysis of: Amendment to First Edition
H1064-ABK-93

Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: *The Amendment H1064-ABK-93 would do the following:*

- *Change the method of election for certain municipalities in Forsyth County from nonpartisan to partisan.*
- *For vacancies on the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education, require the Board to consult with the party executive committee for the party of the vacating member and appoint the executive committee's recommendation to fill the vacancy if the recommendation is made within 30 days of the vacancy occurring.*

Partisan Elections for Certain Municipalities in Forsyth County

CURRENT LAW: The following chart summarizes the current town officers, terms of office, and method of election in the municipalities of Bethania, Clemmons, Kernersville, Lewisville, Rural Hall, Tobaccoville, and Walkertown.

Unit of Government	Officers	Term of Offices	Election of Current Members	Method of Election
Town of Bethania	Mayor Board of Commissioners (5 members) Commissioners elect one of its members to serve as mayor	<u>Mayor:</u> four years <u>Commissioner:</u> four years, staggered	<u>Mayor:</u> serves at pleasure of council <u>Commissioners:</u> Three elected in 2023 & two elected in 2021	Nonpartisan plurality
Village of Clemmons	Mayor Village Council (5 members)	<u>Mayor:</u> two years <u>Council members:</u> four years Four or two years depending on number of votes candidate received	<u>Mayor:</u> Elected in 2023 <u>Council members:</u> Three elected in 2023; two for a four-year term and one for a two-year term	Nonpartisan plurality

Jeffrey Hudson
Director



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Town of Kernersville	Mayor Board of Aldermen (5 members)	<u>Mayor:</u> two years <u>Aldermen:</u> two years	<u>Mayor:</u> Elected in 2023 <u>Aldermen:</u> Elected in 2023	Nonpartisan plurality
Town of Lewisville	Mayor Town Council (6 members)	<u>Mayor:</u> two years <u>Town Council:</u> two years	<u>Mayor:</u> Elected in 2023 <u>Town Council:</u> Elected in 2023	Nonpartisan plurality
Town of Rural Hall	Mayor Town Council (4 members)	<u>Mayor:</u> four years <u>Town Council:</u> four years, staggered	<u>Mayor:</u> Elected in 2023 <u>Town Council:</u> Two elected in 2023 & two elected in 2021	Nonpartisan plurality
Village of Tobaccolville	Mayor Town Council (4 members)	<u>Mayor:</u> two years <u>Town Council:</u> four years, staggered	<u>Mayor:</u> elected in 2023 <u>Council:</u> two elected in 2023 & two elected in 2021	Nonpartisan plurality
Town of Walkertown	Mayor Town Council (5 members)	<u>Mayor:</u> four years <u>Town Council:</u> four years, staggered	<u>Mayor:</u> elected in 2023 <u>Town Council:</u> two elected in 2023 & two elected in 2021	Nonpartisan plurality

BILL ANALYSIS: The amendment would provide that beginning in 2025, municipal elections for the Town of Bethania, the Village of Clemmons, the Town of Kernersville, the Town of Lewisville, the Town of Rural Hall, the Village of Tobaccolville, and the Town of Walkertown would be conducted on a partisan basis.

Vacancies on Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education

CURRENT LAW: The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education (Board) consists of nine members, elected to four-year terms of office on a partisan basis in even-numbered years from a combination of electoral districts and at-large seats. Two members are elected from District 1, four members are elected from District 2, and three members are elected from the county at-large. For the district seats, only qualified voters of the district are eligible to be candidates and only qualified voters of the district are eligible to vote. For the at-large seats, any qualified voter of the county is eligible to be a candidate and all qualified voters of the county are eligible to vote. All members of the Board are elected in the same election at the time of the general election for other county officers. Vacancies are filled by the remaining members of the Board, with the appointee serving for the unexpired term of the vacating member.

BILL ANALYSIS: The amendment would provide that vacancies occurring on the Board would be filled in accordance with G.S. 115C-37.1, which requires the remaining members of the Board to consult with the county executive committee of the relevant political party before filling a vacancy and to appoint that executive committee's nominee, if the recommendation is made within 30 days after the seat becomes vacant.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as otherwise provided, effective when it becomes law.