



SENATE BILL 386: Residency Districts/City of Northwest.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	June 28, 2023
Introduced by:	Sen. Rabon	Prepared by:	Jessica Sammons
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 386 would revise the Charter for the City of Northwest to require the members of the city council to be elected from residency districts, beginning with the 2023 municipal election.*

CURRENT LAW: Part 4 of Article 2 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes sets forth the optional structures for forms of government for city councils.

With respect to methods of elections, the options are:

- At-large, with all the qualified voters of the entire city nominating all candidates and electing all members of the city council.
- Pure election districts, with the qualified voters of each district nominating candidates and electing members who reside in the district for seats apportioned to that district.
- Residency districts, with all the qualified voters of the entire city nominating all candidates and electing all members of the city council, but members must reside in and represent the districts according to the apportionment plan adopted.
- Combination of at-large and districts.

The Charter of the City of Northwest provides that the city council consists of five members elected from the city at-large for staggered four-year terms. Elections are conducted using the nonpartisan plurality method. G.S. 163-292.

BILL ANALYSIS: The bill would revise the Charter of the City of Northwest to require the members of the city council to be elected from four residency districts, beginning in 2023. Districts 1, 2, and 4 would be single-member districts. District 3 would be a two-member district. Candidates must reside in the district in which the election is held, but the seat would be voted on by all qualified voters of the city.

To implement this change, in 2023, two members representing District 3 would be elected to serve four-year terms, and in 2025, one member from each of Districts 1, 2, and 4 would be elected to serve four-year terms.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective when it becomes law and applies to elections held on or after that date.

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