



HOUSE BILL 1038: At-Large Elections/Jacksonville City Council.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	June 16, 2026
Introduced by:	Reps. Gable, Shepard	Prepared by:	Erika Churchill, Jessica Sammons, and Hillary Woodard,
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorneys

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 1038 would provide that all six members of the City Council for the City of Jacksonville would be elected from the City at-large, rather than four members being elected from wards and two members being elected at-large, beginning with the 2027 municipal election.*

CURRENT LAW: Officers for the City of Jacksonville consist of a mayor and six Council Members serving four-year staggered terms. Two of the Council Members are elected by the City at-large, and four Council Members are elected from single-member electoral districts known as wards. For the district seats, only qualified voters of the wards are eligible to be candidates and only qualified voters of the ward are eligible to vote. For the at-large seats, any qualified voter of the City is eligible to be a candidate and all qualified voters of the City are eligible to vote.

Elections are held in odd-numbered years using the nonpartisan plurality method. G.S. 163-292. Elections are held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. G.S. 163-279.

BILL ANALYSIS and EFFECTIVE DATE: House Bill 1038 would provide that, beginning with the municipal election held in 2027, all Council Members for the City of Jacksonville would be elected by the City at-large at the time of their next election. Any qualified voter of the City would be eligible to be a candidate for Council Member and all qualified voters of the City would be eligible to vote.

The bill would not affect the filling of a vacancy that occurs for the officers in the City of Jacksonville for a seat elected prior to its effective date. For such vacancies occurring for a seat representing a ward, any person appointed to fill the vacancy must be a resident of the ward in which the vacancy occurs.

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