



HOUSE BILL 1217: Norlina/Even-Yr Elect./4-Yr Staggered Terms.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee: House State and Local Government. If **Date:** June 23, 2026
favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and
Operations of the House

Introduced by: Rep. R. Pierce

Prepared by: Jessica Sammons

Analysis of: PCS to First Edition
H1217-CSBK-e-23

Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *The proposed committee substitute to House Bill 1217 would move the election cycle from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years for the Town of Norlina and extend the term of office for the municipal officers from two years to staggered four-year terms, effective with the 2028 election cycle.*

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 163-279 provides for odd-numbered year municipal elections statewide, creating a default rule for the time of municipal elections. The Town of Norlina, in Warren County, was incorporated in 1913 and has a 2020 Census population of 920 people. The Town's elected officials are a mayor and a five-member board of commissioners, with each official serving a two-year term. Municipal elections in the Town are conducted in the odd-numbered years using the nonpartisan plurality method.

BILL ANALYSIS and EFFECTIVE DATE: The PCS would do the following with respect to the Town of Norlina:

- Change the terms of office for the mayor and board of commissioners from two-years to staggered four-year terms.
- Change the time of the election from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years. The election would still be conducted using the nonpartisan plurality method, with the filing period for candidates occurring in July of the even-numbered years.
- Correct a change made in 1969 that increased the number of members of the board of commissioners from three members to five members, to reflect in the charter that the board of commissioners consists of five members.

In order to implement these changes, the terms of the current mayor and all members of the board of commissioners would be extended by one year, and no municipal elections would be held in the Town of Norlina in 2027. Elections would begin again in 2028, with the mayor elected for a four-year term. To implement staggering for the board of commissioners, the two board of commissioner candidates receiving the highest number of votes would be elected for a four-year term to serve until 2032, and the three board of commissioner candidates receiving the next highest number of votes would be elected for a two-year term to serve until 2030.

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