



HOUSE BILL 271: Cabarrus Co Local Omnibus.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	May 13, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Echevarria, Almond	Prepared by:	Jessica Sammons
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 271 would change the method of election for municipalities located wholly within Cabarrus County from nonpartisan to partisan, beginning in 2027, subject to a referendum of the voter in each municipality in 2025 and would modify the process for filling vacancies on the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners.*

CURRENT LAW: The following chart summarizes the current town officers, terms of office, and method of election in the City of Concord and Towns of Harrisburg, Midland, and Mount Pleasant, the four municipalities wholly located within Cabarrus County.

Unit of Government	Officers	Term of Offices	Last Election of Current Members	Method of Election
City of Concord	Mayor City Council (7 members)	<u>Mayor:</u> four years <u>Council:</u> four years, staggered	<u>Mayor:</u> 2021 <u>Council:</u> Three elected in 2021 & four elected in 2023	Nonpartisan plurality
Town of Harrisburg	Mayor Town Council (7 members)	<u>Mayor:</u> four years <u>Council:</u> four years, staggered	<u>Mayor:</u> 2021 <u>Council:</u> Three elected in 2021 & four elected in 2023	Nonpartisan plurality
Town of Midland	Mayor Town Council (4 members)	<u>Mayor:</u> four years <u>Council:</u> four years, staggered	<u>Mayor:</u> 2021 <u>Council:</u> Two elected in 2021 & two elected in 2023	Nonpartisan plurality
Town of Mount Pleasant	Mayor Town Commissioners (5 members)	<u>Mayor:</u> four years <u>Commissioners:</u> four years, staggered	<u>Mayor:</u> 2023 <u>Commissioners:</u> Three elected in 2021 & two elected in 2023	Nonpartisan plurality

When a vacancy on a county board of commissioners (board) occurs, generally that vacancy is filled in accordance with G.S. 153A-27 or G.S. 153A-27.1. Currently, the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners fills vacancies in accordance with G.S. 153A-27.

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Selection of Appointee to Fill a Vacancy:

Under both statutory processes, the remaining members of the board appoint a new member to fill that vacancy. G.S. 153A-27 requires consultation with the executive committee of the political party of the vacating member but the board is not bound by that political party's recommendation. G.S. 153A-27.1 provides that the board must appoint the recommendation of the political party of the vacating member, if that recommendation is made within 30 days of the vacancy.

Length of Appointee's Term:

Both G.S. 153A-27 and G.S. 153A-27.1 have the same rules regarding the length of the appointee's term. How long the appointee will serve depends on the term of the vacating member and when the vacancy occurs during that term, summarized in the following chart:

Term of Vacating Member	Term of Appointee
Vacating member was serving a 2 year term and vacates office during that term.	Appointee will serve the remainder of the unexpired term.
Vacating member was serving a 4 year term and vacates office later than 60 days before the next general election held after the first two years of the term.	Appointee will serve the remainder of the unexpired term.
Vacating member was serving 4 year term and vacates office more than 60 days before the next general election.	Appointee will serve until the first Monday in December following the next general election. Person elected at the next general election will serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

BILL ANALYSIS & EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill would provide for a referendum to be held in each municipality located wholly within Cabarrus County for the November 2025 municipal election to determine if a majority of the voters approve changing the method of election for officers in each of the respective municipalities from nonpartisan to partisan.

For each municipality where the referendum is approved by a majority of qualified voters, beginning in 2027, municipal elections for that municipality would be held on a partisan basis as provided in G.S. 163-291.

Under the partisan method of election for municipalities, the election is held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November and the primary is held on the second Tuesday after Labor Day. The second primary, if required, is held on the fourth Tuesday before the November election.

The bill would add Cabarrus County to the list of counties in which G.S. 153A-27.1 applies to provide that the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners is bound by the recommendation of the political party of the vacating member, if that recommendation is made within 30 days of the vacancy when filling a vacancy on the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners. This section of the bill would be effective when it becomes law and applies to vacancies filled on or after that date.