

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 174
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/7/23

Short Title: Stagger Winston-Salem/Forsyth Bd. of Ed. Term.

(Local)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 23, 2023

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO STAGGER THE TERMS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
WINSTON-SALEM/FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Section 2(a)(5)(i) of Chapter 112 of the 1961 Session Laws reads as rewritten:

"(i) ~~The board Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education shall continue to be~~
~~composed of eight persons and the then members of the board~~ nine members who shall continue
in office (regardless of the term for which they were originally appointed) until their successors
are elected and qualified, as hereinafter provided."

SECTION 2. Section 2(a)(5)(ii) of Chapter 112 of the 1961 Session Laws, as
rewritten by Chapter 466 of the 1985 Session Laws, and as amended by Chapter 696 of the 1991
Session Laws, S.L. 2009-72, and S.L. 2011-141, reads as rewritten:

"(ii) ~~Effective on the first Monday in December 1986, the Members of the~~
~~Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education shall be composed of nine members. In the~~
~~2010 election, nine persons shall be elected to the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of~~
~~Education for staggered four-year terms. The terms of those elected in 2010 for two year~~
~~terms shall instead expire on the first Monday in December of 2014. Members shall be elected as~~
follows:

~~In 2014:~~

(1) ~~Two persons~~ members shall be elected from District 1.

(2) ~~Four persons~~ members shall be elected from District 2.

(3) Three members shall be elected ~~at large~~ at-large from all of Forsyth County.

~~Successors to those elected in 2014 shall serve four-year terms.~~

For an at-large seat, any qualified voter of Forsyth County is eligible to vote. For the district
seats, only qualified voters of the district shall be eligible to be candidates and only qualified
voters of the district shall be eligible to vote.

~~The districts as established for the purpose of this subparagraph are for the 2010 election~~
~~those established under G.S. 115C-37(i), which are subject to change for the election in 2014~~
~~after the return of the 2010 census.~~ under G.S. 115C-37(i).

SECTION 3. To implement the staggering of terms, beginning in 2026, all
candidates shall be elected and serve as follows:

(1) Two candidates shall be elected from District 1. The candidate receiving the
highest number of votes for those seats shall serve a four-year term, and that
seat shall be up for election in 2030 and every four years thereafter. The
candidate receiving the second highest number of votes for those seats shall



1 serve a two-year term, and that seat shall be up for election in 2028 and every
2 four years thereafter.

3 (2) Four candidates shall be elected from District 2. The two candidates receiving
4 the highest and second highest number of votes for those seats shall serve a
5 four-year term, and those seats shall be up for election in 2030 and every four
6 years thereafter. The candidates receiving the third and fourth highest number
7 of votes for those seats shall serve a two-year term, and those seats shall be up
8 for election in 2028 and every four years thereafter.

9 (3) Three candidates shall be elected from the county at large. The candidates
10 receiving the highest and second highest number of votes for those seats shall
11 serve a four-year term, and those seats shall be up for election in 2030 and
12 every four years thereafter. The candidate receiving the third highest number
13 of votes for those seats shall serve a two-year term, and that seat shall be up
14 for election in 2028 and every four years thereafter.

15 **SECTION 4.** This act does not affect the terms of office of any person elected in
16 2022 to the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education. Each member of the
17 Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education elected in 2022, or any member appointed
18 to fill a vacancy for a member elected in 2022, shall serve until a successor has been elected and
19 qualified.

20 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to elections held
21 in 2026 and thereafter.