

ORDINANCE NO. (2024) 627

AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE THE NUMBER AND ELECTION OF MEMBERS SECTION OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF RALEIGH

WHEREAS, pursuant to G.S. § 160A-102, City Council may amend the City's charter to alter the City's form of government by adopting one or a combination of options set forth in G.S. § 160A-101; and

WHEREAS, G.S. § 160A-101(4) provides that members of City Council may serve terms of office of either two or four years and that the terms need not expire in the same year; and

WHEREAS, G.S. § 160A-101(7) provides that the City may choose one of four options for election methods, including the nonpartisan primary and election method; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the City's charter, City Council Members and the Mayor currently serve two-year terms of office and are elected through the nonpartisan plurality election method; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2024, City Council adopted Resolution No. (2024)-565, expressing its intent to consider an ordinance amending the City's charter to provide that the City Council Members and the Mayor be elected through the nonpartisan primary and election method to serve four-year terms of office, which terms would be staggered; and

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2024, City Council held a public hearing to consider the proposed ordinance amendments; and

WHEREAS, the City Council now desires to amend the City's charter to implement the proposed ordinance amendments beginning with the 2026 municipal election.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RALEIGH that:

Section 1. Section 9 of the Charter of the City of Raleigh is hereby amended to add the underlined language where noted below and to delete the language shown as stricken through:

SEC. 9. Number and Election of Members of City Council. The mode of election of the City Council and Mayor shall be as follows:

- (a) The City Council shall consist of eight (8) members, including the Mayor of the City.
- (b) The mode of election of the City Council and Mayor shall be as follows:
 - (1) The City Council shall divide the City into five (5) electoral districts and shall cause a map of the districts to be prepared and filed as provided by G.S. 160A-22 and 160A-23; one member of the City Council shall be apportioned to each district so that each member represents the same number of persons as nearly as possible, except for the members

apportioned to the City at large; and the qualified voters of each district shall nominate and elect candidates who reside in the district for the seat apportioned to that district.

- (2) The qualified voters of the City shall nominate and elect two (2) candidates apportioned to the City at large.
- (3) The Mayor of the City of Raleigh shall be elected by all the qualified voters of the City of Raleigh.
- (c) The method of election of the City Council of the City of Raleigh shall be the nonpartisan primary and election ~~plurality~~ method to be conducted as provided in ~~G.S. 163-292~~ G.S. 163-294.
- (d) Each member of the City Council and the Mayor shall be elected for a term of ~~two~~ four years and until his successor is elected and qualified. The terms of office shall be staggered as follows: In November 2026 and every four years thereafter, the at-large candidate receiving the highest number of votes in the 2026 municipal election, and the prevailing candidates for Mayor, and the District A and B seats shall be elected to four-year terms. In November 2026, the at-large candidate receiving the second highest number of votes in the 2026 municipal election and the prevailing candidates for the District C, D, and E seats shall be elected to two-year terms and in November 2028, and every four years thereafter, the same shall be elected to four-year terms.
- (e) Vacancies in the City Council shall be filled by the Council for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- (f) Vacancies in the office of Mayor shall be filled by the Council from their own number for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- (g) Elections shall be held in even-numbered years. All ~~other~~ related dates shall be determined in accordance with the ~~uniform municipal election laws of North Carolina~~ general laws governing primaries and election for county officers.

Section 2. This ordinance shall be effective immediately following its adoption with implementation beginning with the 2026 municipal election.

Adopted: May 7, 2024

Distribution: City Attorney's Office
Management Team