

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE BILL 468
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/15/13

Short Title: High Point Elections.

(Local)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 1, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO CHANGE THE METHOD OF ELECTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY
3 COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF HIGH POINT TO HOLD THE ELECTIONS
4 IN ODD-NUMBERED YEARS AND BY A NONPARTISAN PRIMARY AND
5 ELECTION METHOD AS PROVIDED BY GENERAL LAW.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 3.1 of the Charter of the City of High Point, being Chapter
8 501 of the 1979 Session Laws, as amended by Ordinance Number 86-7 under Part 4 of Article
9 5 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes and Section 2(a) of S.L. 2006-171, reads as
10 rewritten:

11 "Sec. 3.1. Method of election. ~~Regular~~Beginning with the 2017 election, regular municipal
12 elections shall be held in the City biennially in ~~even-numbered-odd-numbered~~ years, and shall
13 be conducted in accordance with State law governing municipal elections. The mayor and
14 members of the council shall be elected by the nonpartisan ~~plurality~~ primary and election
15 method provided for in ~~G.S. 163-292~~G.S. 163-294."

16 **SECTION 2.** If the referendum provided in Section 4 is approved, and
17 notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the 2014 election, the terms of the mayor and
18 council members elected shall be for three years.

19 **SECTION 3.** If, on the date this act becomes law, the changes affecting voting
20 required by Section 1 of this act are subject to preclearance under section 5 of the Voting
21 Rights Act of 1965, the municipal attorney for the City of High Point shall submit the date of
22 the election under this act to the Attorney General of the United States within 30 days of this
23 act becoming law, as provided by G.S. 120-30.9F. If it is not so submitted, the Attorney
24 General of North Carolina shall submit it under G.S. 120-30.9I.

25 **SECTION 4.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act become effective only if approved by a
26 majority of the qualified voters of the City of High Point in a referendum and upon
27 preclearance by the Attorney General of the United States if required under section 5 of the
28 Voting Rights Act of 1965. The election shall be conducted by the appropriate county board(s)
29 of elections in the November 2014 general election. The question on the ballot shall be:

30 "[] FOR [] AGAINST

31 Beginning in the 2017 election and every two years thereafter, electing the mayor
32 and the city council members by using the nonpartisan primary and election method pursuant to
33 State law, and the mayor and city council members elected at the 2014 election serving a
34 three-year term to expire in 2017."

35 **SECTION 5.** Except as otherwise provided in this act, this act is effective when it
36 becomes law.

