

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 496

Short Title: Fair and Nonpartisan Ballot Placement. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Bert Jones.

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Elections and Ethics Law

March 28, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT REGARDING THE PLACEMENT OF CANDIDATES ON OFFICIAL ELECTION
3 BALLOTS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. G.S. 163-165.6 reads as rewritten:

6 "§ 163-165.6. Arrangement of official ballots.

7 ...

8 (c) Order of Candidates on ~~Primary and Nonpartisan~~ Official Ballots. – The order in
9 which candidates shall appear on a ~~county's~~ official ballots in any (i) ~~primary ballot item,~~
10 ~~whether the primary is partisan or nonpartisan,~~ and (ii) ~~in any nonpartisan general election~~
11 ~~ballot item under Article 25 of this Chapter shall be determined by the county board of~~
12 ~~elections using a process designed by the State Board of Elections for random selection. The~~
13 ~~same random selection process shall be used for all primaries and elections in a calendar~~
14 ~~year election ballot item shall be by either alphabetical order or reverse alphabetical order by~~
15 the last name of the candidate, which order shall be determined each election by drawing at the
16 State Board of Elections after the closing of the filing period for all offices on the ballot.

17 (d) ~~Order of Party Candidates on General Election Official Ballot.~~—Candidates in any
18 ballot item on a general election official ballot shall appear in the following order:

19 (1) ~~Nominees of political parties that reflect at least five percent (5%) of~~
20 ~~statewide voter registration, according to the most recent statistical report~~
21 ~~published by the State Board of Elections, in alphabetical order by party~~
22 ~~beginning with the party whose nominee for Governor received the most~~
23 ~~votes in the most recent gubernatorial election, and in alphabetical order~~
24 ~~within the party.~~

25 (2) ~~Nominees of other political parties, in alphabetical order by party and in~~
26 ~~alphabetical order within the party.~~

27 (3) ~~Unaffiliated candidates, in alphabetical order.~~

28 (d1) ~~Order of Candidates for Judge of the Court of Appeals on General Election Official~~
29 ~~Ballot.~~—Candidates for judge of the Court of Appeals on a general election official ballot shall
30 appear in the following order:

31 (1) ~~Candidates registered with political parties that reflect at least five percent~~
32 ~~(5%) of statewide voter registration, according to the most recent statistical~~
33 ~~report published by the State Board of Elections, in alphabetical order by~~
34 ~~party beginning with the party whose nominee for Governor received the~~



- 1 most votes in the most recent gubernatorial election and in alphabetical order
- 2 within the party.
- 3 (2) ~~Candidates registered with other political parties, in alphabetical order by~~
- 4 ~~party and in alphabetical order within the party.~~
- 5 (3) ~~Unaffiliated candidates, in alphabetical order.~~

6 "

7 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to elections
8 held on or after that date.