

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 361*

Short Title: Carrboro Special Elections. (Local)

Sponsors: Representative Insko.

Referred to: Election Law and Campaign Finance Reform.

February 26, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF CARRBORO TO
2 PROVIDE THAT VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF ALDERMAN SHALL BE
3 FILLED THROUGH A SPECIAL ELECTION PROCESS IN SOME
4 CIRCUMSTANCES.
5

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 2-2 of the Charter of the Town of Carrboro, being
8 Chapter 476 of the 1987 Session Laws, reads as rewritten:

9 "**Section 2-2. Election of Mayor and Aldermen.** (a) The mayor and the aldermen
10 shall be elected by the voters of the entire town. The mayor shall be elected for a term
11 of two years and the aldermen shall be elected for staggered terms of four years.

12 (b) The municipal elections in the Town of Carrboro shall be nonpartisan and
13 decided by a simple plurality. No primary elections shall be held. The municipal
14 elections shall be conducted pursuant to the applicable provisions of Chapter 163 of the
15 North Carolina General Statutes, particularly Articles 23 and 24 thereof.

16 (c) In the municipal elections to be held in 1987, and every two years thereafter,
17 the mayor shall be elected for a term of two years. In the 1987 election (and the
18 municipal elections held every four years thereafter), three aldermen shall be elected to
19 fill the seats of the aldermen whose terms expire in 1987 (and every four years
20 thereafter). In the municipal elections to be held in 1989 (and every four years
21 thereafter), three aldermen shall be elected to fill the seats of the aldermen whose terms
22 expire in 1989 (and every four years thereafter).

23 (d) In the general municipal election the candidate receiving the highest number
24 of votes for mayor shall be elected. The three candidates in such election receiving the
25 highest number of votes for the office of alderman shall be elected for full four-year
26 terms. ~~If it is also necessary to elect one or more aldermen to fill the unexpired terms of~~
27 ~~one or more aldermen whose offices were vacated, the person receiving the fourth~~
28 ~~highest number of votes for aldermen (and, if necessary, the fifth and the sixth highest~~
29 ~~number of votes) shall be elected for the unexpired term or terms.~~

1 (e) Vacancies that occur in the office of mayor shall be filled by appointment of
2 the board of aldermen in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 160A-63.

3 (f) Notwithstanding the first four sentences of G.S. 160A-63, but subject to this
4 subsection and subsection (g) of this section, whenever a seat on the board of aldermen
5 (other than that of the mayor) becomes vacant at a time when one year or more of the
6 term of office of that seat remains unexpired, such seat shall be filled by a special
7 election. Such special election shall be called by the board of aldermen by the adoption
8 of a resolution pursuant to G.S. 163-287 at the next regular or special meeting of the
9 board held after the vacancy occurs. Such resolution shall not schedule an election
10 during the time period beginning on the first Monday in July and ending on the last
11 Monday in August in any calendar year. Vacancies that occur in the office of alderman
12 at a time when less than one year of that alderman's term of office remains unexpired
13 shall be filled by appointment of the board of aldermen in accordance with
14 G.S. 160A-63.

15 (g) If the board of aldermen adopts a resolution calling for a special election to
16 fill one or more vacant board seats as provided in subsection (f) of this section, and the
17 resolution sets as the date of such election the same date as a regular municipal election,
18 then (i) the resolution shall provide that the same filing period, filing fee, and absentee
19 voting period that are applicable to the three seats on the board whose terms are
20 expiring shall also apply to the special election for the vacant seat or seats; (ii)
21 candidates who seek to fill either the expiring seats or the vacant seats shall file and
22 appear on the ballot simply as candidates for election to the board of aldermen (i.e. they
23 shall not be allowed to file or appear on the ballot as a candidate for either a particular
24 vacant seat or an expiring seat); and (iii) the three candidates receiving the highest
25 number of votes for the office of alderman shall be elected to full four-year terms, and
26 the person receiving the fourth highest number of votes for aldermen (and, if necessary,
27 the fifth and the sixth highest number of votes) shall be elected for the remaining two
28 years of the unexpired term of the vacant seat or seats."

29 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.