

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1293**

Introduced by

Representatives Pyle, Nathe, Roers Jones, Schreiber-Beck, Warrey

Senators Cleary, Dever, Lee, Sorvaag

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 40-04.1-01, 40-04.1-05, 40-08-06, 40-08-10,  
2 40-09-04, 40-09-09, 40-14-03, 40-15-03, 40-49-05, 40-49-07, and 40-49-08 of the North Dakota  
3 Century Code, relating to election of city commissioners, city council members, and park district  
4 commissioners.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 40-04.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **40-04.1-01. City council - Membership - Terms.**

9 The governing body of a city operating under the modern council form of government is the  
10 city council, which is composed of not less than four members, one of whom is the mayor, all  
11 elected at large or by wards. Candidates for the council shall run for either mayor or council  
12 member but not both at the same time. The terms of members of the council shall be four  
13 years, ~~or~~ commencing on the first of July of the year in which the member was elected and until  
14 their successors are elected and qualified. However, the council shall establish by ordinance a  
15 procedure whereby one-half of all council members, as nearly as is practicable, are elected  
16 biennially. The number of council members may be increased or decreased pursuant to section  
17 40-06-09.

18 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 40-04.1-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
19 amended and reenacted as follows:

20 **40-04.1-05. Meetings - Regular, special, and for organization.**

21 The city council shall hold its regular meetings at least once a month and may prescribe by  
22 ordinance the manner in which special meetings may be called. The city council shall establish  
23 by resolution or ordinance the date of its regular meetings. The ~~first~~ meeting for the organization

1 of the city council must be held ~~on the fourth Tuesday in June~~ in conjunction with the first  
2 meeting in July of each even-numbered year.

3 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 40-08-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **40-08-06. Term of office of council members - Staggered terms provided for in cities**  
6 **where other than ten council members elected.**

7 Council members shall hold office for four years and until their successors are elected and  
8 qualified. Terms of council members must be arranged so that one-half of the council members  
9 in any city, as nearly as practicable, are elected in any one election. When a city first adopts the  
10 council form of government or changes the number of council members, or when a city that has  
11 adopted the commission system of government returns to the city council form of government  
12 as provided by section 40-04-08, the alternation of the terms of the council members must be  
13 perfected as follows: of the council members elected in each ward, the one receiving the  
14 greater number of votes shall serve until the ~~fourth Tuesday in June~~ first day of July following the  
15 second succeeding biennial election and the one receiving the lesser number of votes shall  
16 serve until the ~~fourth Tuesday in June~~ first day of July following the biennial election succeeding  
17 the council member's election; if the city is not divided into wards, the one-half of the council  
18 members elected in the entire city receiving the greater number of votes shall serve until the  
19 ~~fourth Tuesday in June~~ first day of July following the second succeeding biennial election and  
20 the one-half of the council members elected in the entire city receiving the lesser number of  
21 votes shall serve until the ~~fourth Tuesday in June~~ first day of July following the biennial election  
22 succeeding their election. Whenever, for any reason, vacancies exist on the council which  
23 require an unexpired term to be filled by election, the unexpired term must be designated on the  
24 ballot separate from any other regular term or terms that may also appear on the ballot.  
25 Candidates seeking nomination to an unexpired term are required to indicate whether or not  
26 they are seeking a regular term of office or an unexpired term of office on their nominating  
27 petitions as set forth in section 40-21-07.

28 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 40-08-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
29 amended and reenacted as follows:

1           **40-08-10. Meetings of council - Regular, special, and for organization.**

2           The city council shall hold its regular meetings at least once a month on a date certain  
3 established by resolution or ordinance of the council, and may prescribe by ordinance the  
4 manner in which special meetings may be called as well as the establishment of any additional  
5 regular meetings desired. If a regular meeting falls upon a holiday, the meeting must be held  
6 upon the next business day with the same effect as if conducted upon the day appointed. All  
7 regular and special meetings must be held at a time and place designated by the city council.  
8 The first meeting for the organization of the city council must be held on the ~~fourth~~first Tuesday  
9 in ~~June~~July of each even-numbered year.

10           **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 40-09-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
11 amended and reenacted as follows:

12           **40-09-04. Commissioners - Terms - Resignations.**

13           Each commissioner and the president of the board of city commissioners shall hold office  
14 for four years commencing on the ~~fourth Tuesday in June~~first day of July of the year in which  
15 the officer was elected and until a successor has been duly elected and qualified. The  
16 commission shall establish by ordinance a procedure whereby one-half of all commissioners, as  
17 nearly as practicable, are elected biennially. The president or any other member of the board  
18 may resign from office by filing a written resignation with the city auditor, who shall submit the  
19 resignation to the board of city commissioners at its next regular meeting or at a special  
20 meeting called for consideration of the resignation. The resignation is effective upon its  
21 acceptance by the board.

22           **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 40-09-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

24           **40-09-09. Vice president and acting president of board - Powers to act.**

25           At the first meeting of the board after each ~~biennial election~~the newly elected  
26 commissioners take office, one of its own members shallmust be elected vice president. The  
27 vice president shall perform all the duties of the office of president in the absence or disability of  
28 the president to act. In the absence or disability to act of both the president and the vice  
29 president, the board shall elect one of its members as acting president, who shall ~~have~~has all  
30 the powers and ~~perform~~performs all the duties of the president during the absence or disability.

1       **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 40-14-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3       **40-14-03. When term of elective officer begins.**

4       Under the city council form of government, the term of each elective officer commences on  
5 the ~~fourth Tuesday of June~~first day of July of the year in which the officer is elected.

6       **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 40-15-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8       **40-15-03. When term of elective officers begins.**

9       The term of each elective officer in a city operating under the commission system of  
10 government commences on the ~~fourth Tuesday in June~~first day of July of the year in which the  
11 officer is elected.

12       **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 40-49-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14       **40-49-05. Board of park commissioners in city - Terms.**

- 15       1. The powers of a park district in a city must be exercised by a board of park  
16 commissioners consisting of five or three members, as determined by the governing  
17 body of the city in creating the park district or pursuant to sections 40-49-07.1 and  
18 40-49-07.2. Except as provided in subsection 2, each commissioner shall hold office  
19 for a term of four years and until a successor is elected and qualified. The term of  
20 office of a commissioner begins ~~two weeks after the regular biennial city election at~~  
21 ~~which the commissioner is elected~~on the first day of July.
- 22       2. Members of a newly created five-member board shall hold office as follows:
- 23       a. Three members until ~~two weeks~~the first day of July after the next regular biennial  
24 city election.
- 25       b. Two members until two years from the time mentioned in subdivision a.
- 26       3. Members of boards of park commissioners which existed before July 1, 1987, shall  
27 hold office on the staggered basis in effect on June 30, 1986.
- 28       4. Members of a newly created three-member board shall hold office as follows:
- 29       a. Two members until ~~two weeks~~the first day of July after the next regular biennial  
30 city election.

1           b. One member until ~~two years~~the first day of July after the next regular biennial city  
2           election.

3           **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 40-49-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5           **40-49-07. Election and qualification of members of board of park commissioners.**

6           The members of the board of park commissioners shall possess the qualifications of  
7 electors of the city and must be elected by the qualified electors of the park district. The  
8 members of the first board may be elected at any regular city election or at a special election  
9 called for that purpose by the governing body of the city. Thereafter, members of the board must  
10 be elected at the regular city elections. Such members shall qualify ~~within two weeks after~~by the  
11 first day of July following their election by taking and filing with the city auditor the oath  
12 prescribed for civil officers. The board of park commissioners may enter into an agreement with  
13 the governing body of the city concerning sharing of election personnel, printing of election  
14 materials, and apportioning of election expenses.

15           **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Section 40-49-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
16 amended and reenacted as follows:

17           **40-49-08. Organization of board of park commissioners - City auditor to act as**  
18 **treasurer of board or board to appoint clerk.**

19           ~~Two weeks after their election~~At the first meeting of the board of park commissioners in July  
20 after the regular biennial city election, the members of the ~~board of park commissioners~~ shall  
21 organize the board by selecting a president and a vice president. The city auditor shall be ex  
22 officio treasurer of the park district or the board may appoint a clerk and such other employees  
23 as shall be deemed needed for the efficient conduct of the district's business and shall fix their  
24 compensation. The clerk shall take the oath prescribed for civil officers and shall obtain such  
25 bond as may be required by the board.