



EDENTON-CHOWAN SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Allan T. Smith, Superintendent

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE EDENTON-CHOWAN SCHOOL BOARD CHANGING ELECTION TERMS FROM SIX TO FOUR YEARS

WHEREAS, the Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education was initially created by enactment of a law by the North Carolina General Assembly that merged the Edenton City Board of Education and the Chowan County Board of Education in 1967, and

WHEREAS, the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education was initially created as a non-partisan body made up of seven members elected at-large by voters throughout the county, with one seat designated to be filled by an individual residing anywhere in Chowan County and the other six seats allocated two each to the three county electoral districts with elections to be held in even-numbered years with a maximum of three seats being designated for election in any single year, and

WHEREAS, the legislation that created the merged Edenton-Chowan Board of Education spelled out that each of the seven seats would be established for terms of six years with individuals limited to election for a maximum of two consecutive six-year terms, and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly in both 1989 and 2002 passed legislation that made major changes regarding the election procedures for members representing the three voting districts for the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education (1989) and that removed term limits for elected members (2002) while in each case maintaining six-year terms, and

WHEREAS, questions have arisen as to whether six-year terms change the dynamics of and the participation in the electoral process for the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education, and

WHEREAS, four-year terms are the predominant term lengths for elected officials at the state, local and federal levels, and

WHEREAS, the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education wishes to remain transparent in its operations and responsive to the needs of the citizens of Chowan County, and

WHEREAS, while the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education recognizes that there are advantages and disadvantages in changing Board Member terms from six years to four years, the Board believes that a switch to four year terms will foster increased candidate participation in the Board of Education election process from the citizens of Chowan County, and

WHEREAS, the intent of the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education is that any reorganization of the body maintain all seats as non-partisan seats not subject to primary elections, and that regular elections of board seats will continue to be held during prescribed elections in even-numbered years with the further intent that any reorganization of member terms will never result in the election of more than four Board members during a single election cycle, and

WHEREAS, the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education recognizes that reorganization of Board Member terms requires approval by the North Carolina General Assembly, so

Be it therefore resolved that the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education will take steps required to seek the reorganization of the election process for Board of Education members from six-year to four-year terms with the transition beginning with the 2014 election cycle.

By a majority vote of the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education, this resolution was adopted this _____ day of the month of _____ in the year _____.

Chair, Edenton-Chowan Board of Education
Education

Secretary, Edenton-Chowan Board of