

Town of Apex Even Year Elections Informational Purposes Only

OVERVIEW

The Town Council of Apex is considering the adoption of a resolution expressing interest in exploring the feasibility of transitioning municipal elections from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years, aligning with state and federal election cycles. This effort is part of the Town's broader commitment to efficiency, civic engagement, and fiscal responsibility. The Town's Legislative Agenda list this structure change as a priority for 2026.

COLLABORATION PARTNERS

- Wake County Board of Elections
- Wake County Municipalities (as desired)

TOWN OF APEX CURRENT STRUCTURE

- Elections held in odd-numbered years
- Nonpartisan plurality method
- Governing Body:
 - Mayor (1) – Non voting
 - Councilmembers (5)
- Staggered Terms:
 - Alternating Cycles of:
 - 3 Council seats, or
 - 2 Council seats + Mayor

WHY WE ARE CONSIDERING A CHANGE

1. Increased Voter Participation

- Even-year elections typically coincide with higher-turnout federal and state races
- Greater accessibility and awareness for voters
- Potentially decrease voter fatigue and burnout

2. Cost Efficiency

- Current model requires standalone municipal election administration
- Reduction in:
 - County Staffing costs

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- Polling place operations
- Equipment and logistics

3. Operational Efficiency

- Fewer disruptions to Town services and facilities
- Improved scheduling flexibility for:
 - Parks & recreation programs
 - Community events

4. Environmental & Logistical Benefits

- Fewer standalone elections reduce:
 - Paper usage
 - Transportation/logistics footprint
- Candidate Signage, Mailings, overall election liter

5. Regional Alignment Opportunity

- Potential for a countywide coordinated approach
- Shared benefits across municipalities
- Strengthened regional collaboration and consistency
- Increased costs to smaller municipalities as larger move to even-year

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Current Cost Drivers (Odd-Year Elections):

- Poll worker staffing
- Polling site setup and operations
- Ballot production and equipment
- Administrative coordination

Potential Financial Benefits (Even-Year Alignment):

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- Shared election costs with county/state cycles – decreasing overall costs to each municipality and the county.
- Reduced duplication of resources
- Lower administrative burden on Town staff

HISTORICAL

See summary of Financial Expenses Chart attached as Exhibit A.

WHAT OUR RESOLUTION DOES (AND DOES NOT DO)

✓ Does:

- Express formal interest in exploring the transition
- Initiate staff analysis (legal, financial, operational)
- Encourage regional dialogue with Wake County municipalities
- Direct a report back to Council by June 30, 2026

✗ Does Not:

- Change the current election schedule
- Commit the Town to implementation

ACTIVE LEGISLATION FOR EVEN YEAR ELECTIONS

- **House Bill 1035 (Senate Bill 818) – Even Year Elections – Pink Hill**
 - Filed April 21, 2026
- **House Bill 1037 – Even Year Elections – Belville**
 - Filed April 23, 2026
- **Senate Bill 810 – Even Year Elections – Catawba County**
 - Filed April 23, 2026
- **Senate Bill 833 – Even Year Elections – Bolivia**
 - Filed April 27, 2026

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NEXT STEPS

1. Conduct internal feasibility analysis
2. Engage Wake County Board of Elections
3. Survey and meet with other municipalities
4. Develop recommendations for Council consideration