



# Staggered Terms Process

City Council/School Board  
Work Session  
May 15, 2023





# School Board Election Cycle & Terms: Legal Basis and Governance Changes

## Legal Basis

### City of Alexandria Charter

#### §§ 3.01, 10.01, 15.10: Council and School Board Elections

- 3-year concurrent terms for Council Members and Mayor
- City Council elections held in November 2015; every 3 years thereafter
- School Board elections held every 3 years; coincide with Council elections

## Governance Changes

### City Charter amendment with revised terms for the School Board:

- Initiated by Council
- **Applies to School Board, not the City Council**
- Amendments to City Charter approved by General Assembly



# Previous Discussions

- 2016-2018: Workshopped and passed resolution
- 2019-2021: Twice discussed then tabled during pandemic

Recently, Del. Bennet-Parker informed us that it is not a requirement for both the School Board and Council to be on the same election schedule.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alexandria City School Board requests that the Alexandria City Council consider exploring one or more potential amendments to its City Charter during 2018-2019 as proposed below.

The School Board further encourages the next School Board, to be elected in November 2018, to develop and present specific recommendations to City Council on the matter during 2019, and for both elected bodies to actively seek community input on the following:

- Transitioning Alexandria City School Board Member and Alexandria City Council Member terms of office from concurrent to staggered terms, and therefore the possibility of holding elections more frequently than every three years; and
- Supporting the School Board's interest in exploring a reduction from its nine-Member Board to a lesser number and to possibly include at-large Members.

Adopted at the June 21, 2018 School Board Meeting



# School Board Election Cycle & Terms: Current Framework

- 3-year term begins January 1 following a November election
- 9 Board Members, 3 districts (A, B, C), 3 members each
- Board Members serve concurrent terms
- Board terms coincide with City Council terms
- 1994: First ACPS elected board; previously appointed by Council
- 2012: Elections transitioned from May to November
- Next election: November 2024



# School Board Election Cycle & Terms: Comparison of Local Jurisdictions

School Board	Arlington County	Fairfax County	Falls Church City	ACPS
Term	4	4	4	3
Staggered/ Concurrent	Staggered	Concurrent	Staggered	Concurrent
Election Cycle:	1 <sup>st</sup> Year : 1 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year: 1 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year: 2 4 <sup>th</sup> Year: 1	Odd years preceding presidential elections	1 <sup>st</sup> Year: 4 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year: 3 (Every 2 years in odd years)	Every 3 years, beginning in Nov. 2012

- Statewide:**
- Approximately 2/3 of School Boards serve staggered terms.
  - Only 3 city School Boards in Virginia serve concurrent terms.
  - 121 School Boards serve 4-year terms.
  - 14 School Boards serve 3-year terms.
  - 1 School Board serves a 2-year term.



# School Board Election Cycle & Terms: Process

- ✓ Work Session — December 13, 2022
- ✓ Board Brief — February 3, 2023
- ✓ Work Session — February 9, 2023
- ✓ Staggered Terms Survey — April 2023
- ✓ Public Hearing — April 20, 2023
- Work Session — May 18, 2023
- Adopt Resolution — June 2023
- City Council drafts charter revisions — Summer 2023
- Public Hearing on draft charter — September/October 2023
- Draft legislation — October 2023
- Insert draft legislation into School Board candidate packets — January 2024
- State legislature approves charter revisions — 2024 Session
- Last Concurrent Elections — November 2024



# Questions?

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