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**SENATE BILL NO. 322**

Offered January 12, 2022

Prefiled January 11, 2022

*A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, and 4.3 of Chapter 251 of the Acts of Assembly of 1972, which provided a charter for the Town of The Plains in Fauquier County, relating to dates of election and terms of offices.*

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 Patron—Vogel
 

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Referred to Committee on Local Government

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, and 4.3 of Chapter 251 of the Acts of Assembly of 1972 are amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 3.1. Composition of council; election, qualification and term of office of councilmen and mayor.

The Town of The Plains shall be governed by a town council composed of six councilmen and the mayor, to be elected from the town at large. The councilmen and the mayor shall be qualified electors of the town; and shall serve for terms of four years. At the election held on the first Tuesday *following the first Monday* in ~~May, 1972~~ *November 2022*, the three councilmen ~~receiving the highest number of votes elected~~ shall serve for terms of four years; ~~the three councilmen receiving the next highest number of votes shall serve for terms of two years.~~ At the election held on the first Tuesday *following the first Monday* in ~~May, 1974~~, *November 2024* and in every election thereafter, the *three* councilmen elected shall serve for *terms of* four years. The mayor shall be elected on the first Tuesday *following the first Monday* in ~~May, 1972~~, *November 2024* and every four years thereafter.

§ 3.2. When terms of office to begin.

The terms of office for the town councilmen and mayor shall begin on the first day of ~~July~~ *January* next following their election.

§ 3.3. Vacancies on council.

Vacancies on the town council shall be filled within forty-five days for the unexpired terms by a majority vote of the remaining members; ~~provided;~~ that where a vacancy ~~shall occur~~ *occurs* more than six months prior to a regular town election, such vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members only until a successor shall have been chosen by the qualified electors of the town and shall have qualified as provided by law. In the town election to be held on the first Tuesday *following the first Monday* in ~~May~~ *November* next following the occurrence of such vacancy, there shall be elected by the qualified electors of the town a member of the council to fill each such vacancy for the unexpired term. The term of office of any councilman so elected shall begin on the first day of ~~July~~ *January* next following his election.

§ 4.3. Term of office.

Officers and deputy and assistant officers appointed by the town council shall be appointed for a term of two years, unless otherwise provided by this Charter or by ordinance of the town council. Such term shall begin on the first day in ~~July~~ *January* in each even-numbered year.

INTRODUCED

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