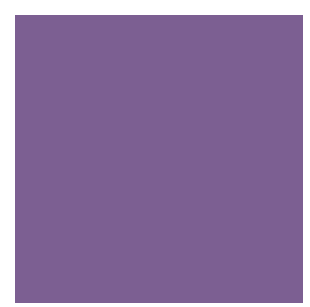
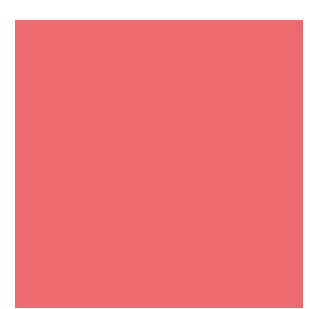


TERM LENGTHS

Winston-Salem currently elects council members to four-year terms. Some cities elect their council members every two years. In 2015, Greensboro voters passed a referendum switching their council to four-year terms. Opinions are mixed whether this was a change for the better.



Learning curve for new members



"Election Mode" for members seeking re-election

- Other cities have found that it can take four to six months for newly elected council members to become efficient members of city government.

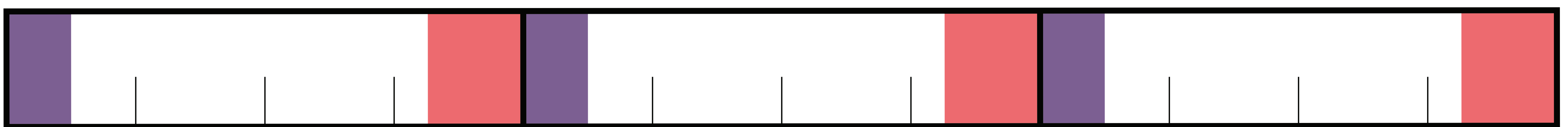
FOUR-YEAR TERMS

Election

Election

Election

Election



- Four-year terms gives voters less opportunity to replace their representatives on city council.
- With four-year terms, council members are running for office less often.
- Four-year terms allow council members to serve longer once they have learned the ropes.

TWO-YEAR TERMS

Election

Election

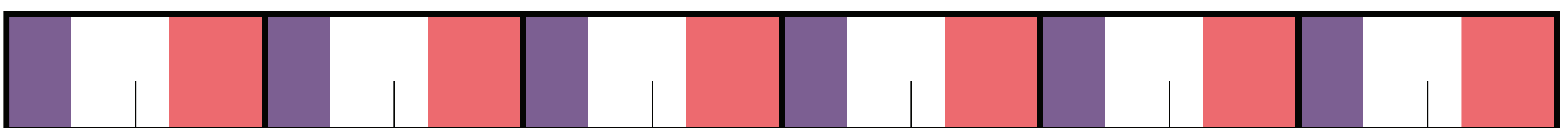
Election

Election

Election

Election

Election



- Two-year terms can make council members more accountable to voters because they are up for re-election every other year.
- Two-year terms require that council members spend a greater proportion of their term running for re-election.
- If council elections are held in odd-numbered years, two-year terms cost taxpayers twice as much because they are bearing the full cost of both elections.