

# Town of Norlina Charter

*Originally Enacted as Chapter 119, Private Laws of North Carolina – 1913*

*Ratified February 25, 1913*

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## Preamble

In recognition of the need to provide for the orderly governance, safety, and welfare of its citizens, the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina enacted legislation in 1913 to incorporate the Town of Norlina in Warren County. This Charter established the framework for municipal government, defined the town's corporate boundaries, and vested authority in locally elected officials to enact laws and collect taxes in accordance with State law.

Since its ratification, this Charter has been amended and revised, most notably by:

- A **comprehensive recodification in 1947** (*Chapter 1020 of the Session Laws of 1947*), and
- A **1969 amendment** to increase the number of town commissioners from three to five (*Session Laws of 1969*).

The following sections contain the original Charter language, professionally updated for clarity and consistency, with all amendments incorporated for accuracy and modern application.

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## Section 1. Incorporation and Name

The Town of Norlina, located in Warren County, North Carolina, is hereby incorporated under the name and style of "**Norlina.**"

The Town shall be governed in accordance with this Charter and shall also be subject to the general municipal provisions contained in **Chapter 73 of the Revisal of 1905**, unless such provisions conflict with this Charter. In the case of conflict, the provisions of this Charter shall prevail.

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## Section 2. Corporate Limits

The corporate limits of the Town of Norlina are defined as follows:

- **Point of Origin:** The center point shall be the depot of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad.
  - **Extent:** From this point, the town shall extend in four straight lines—due **north, east, south, and west**—each measuring **one-half mile** in length.
  - **Boundary Shape:** The resulting corporate limits shall form a **square**, with boundaries formed by lines running at right angles to the cardinal directions, connecting the endpoints to form a contiguous area.
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## Section 3. Governing Officers

The governing body of the Town of Norlina shall consist of:

- **One (1) Mayor**
- **Five (5) Commissioners**  
*(As amended by Session Laws of 1969)*

These officers shall be responsible for:

- Enforcing the ordinances of the town,
- Maintaining public records,
- Managing and conducting the affairs of the municipality.

### Initial Appointments (1913)

Until the first regular election in May 1913:

- **Mayor:** L. H. Hawks
- **Commissioners:** W. E. Pratt, W. G. Hall, H. M. Terrell *(Note: At the time of ratification, three commissioners were named; this number was increased to five in 1969)*

Upon organization, the Board of Commissioners shall appoint the following additional officers:

- **Town Constable**
- **Town Clerk**
- **Town Treasurer**

These officers shall serve until their successors are elected and duly qualified.

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## Section 4. Elections

The first municipal election for Mayor and Commissioners shall be held on the **Tuesday following the first Monday in May 1913**, and **biennially thereafter**.

All such elections shall be conducted in accordance with the laws and procedures applicable to State and county elections, and as prescribed by the laws governing municipal elections in North Carolina.

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## Section 5. Powers of the Board of Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners shall have the authority to:

- Enact all **ordinances, by-laws, rules, and regulations** necessary for the good governance of the Town, provided they are not inconsistent with the laws of the State of North Carolina or the United States.
  - **Levy and collect taxes** on all subjects taxable under State law, **not to exceed seventy-five cents (\$0.75) per one hundred dollars (\$100.00)** of assessed property value. Taxation of persons and property shall conform to the structure established by the **North Carolina Constitution**.
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## Section 6. Oath of Office

All officers named in this act shall, within **ten (10) days** following the ratification of this Charter, take their legally required **oaths of office** and assume their respective duties.

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## Section 7. Repeal of Conflicting Laws

All laws and clauses of laws in conflict with the provisions of this Charter are hereby repealed.

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## Section 8. Effective Date

This Charter shall take effect and be in full force from and after its **ratification**.

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## Amendments and Revisions

### 1. 1947 Revision and Recodification

The Town Charter of Norlina was comprehensively revised and recodified by the General Assembly through **Chapter 1020 of the Session Laws of 1947**. This act clarified and modernized various provisions of the 1913 Charter.

## **2. 1969 Amendment – Increase in Commissioners**

Enacted as an amendment to **Chapter 119, Private Laws of 1913**, the **1969 Session Law** increased the number of Town Commissioners from **three (3)** to **five (5)**. The amendment reads:

### **AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 119 OF THE PRIVATE LAWS OF 1913 BY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF TOWN COMMISSIONERS IN NORLINA FROM THREE TO FIVE**

**Section 1.** Chapter 119, Private Laws of North Carolina, Session of 1913, is hereby amended by deleting the word “three” from the second line of Section 3, and substituting in lieu thereof the word “five.”

**Section 2.** All laws and clauses of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**Section 3.** This Act shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its ratification.

**Ratified this the 19th day of March, 1969.**