

Senate Bill 31

By: Senator Thomas of the 2nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act incorporating the City of Port Wentworth, approved February 6, 1957 (Ga.
2 L. 1957, p. 2003), as amended, so as to reconstitute the governing authority of the city; to
3 provide for council districts; to provide for definitions and inclusions; to provide for
4 continuation in office of the mayor and current council members; to change the provisions
5 relating to the regular expiration of terms of office of certain council members; to provide
6 for election and terms of office of subsequent members; to provide for submission of this Act
7 for preclearance under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide an
8 effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 An Act incorporating the City of Port Wentworth, approved February 6, 1957 (Ga. L. 1957,
12 p. 2003), as amended, is amended by revising Sections 4 and 4A as follows:

13 "SECTION 4.

14 The mayor and city council of the City of Port Wentworth which existed immediately prior
15 to the effective date of this Act, is continued in existence but on and after January 1, 2010,
16 shall be constituted as provided in this Act. The mayor and city council of the City of Port
17 Wentworth so continued and constituted shall continue to have the same powers, duties,
18 rights, obligations, and liabilities as existed immediately prior to January 1, 2010.

19 **SECTION 4A.**

20 (a)(1) The mayor of the City of Port Wentworth whose term regularly expires on
21 December 31, 2009, and any person selected to fill a vacancy in any such office shall
22 continue to serve as such until the regular expiration of that term of office and upon the
23 election and qualification of the mayor's successor.

1 (2) Those members of the city council of Port Wentworth whose terms regularly expire
2 on December 31, 2007, and any person selected to fill a vacancy in any such office shall
3 continue to serve as such members until the regular expiration of their respective terms
4 of office and upon the election and qualification of their respective successors.
5 Successors to such members shall be elected at the general election on the Tuesday next
6 following the first Monday in November, 2007. Those members of the city council
7 elected thereto in 2007 shall take office on the first day of January immediately following
8 that election and shall serve for a term of office which expires on December 31, 2009,
9 and upon the election and qualification of their respective successors.

10 (3) Those members of the city council of Port Wentworth whose terms regularly expire
11 on December 31, 2009, and any person selected to fill a vacancy in any such office shall
12 continue to serve as such members until the regular expiration of their respective terms
13 of office and upon the election and qualification of their respective successors.

14 (4) On and after January 1, 2010, the city council of the City of Port Wentworth shall
15 consist of six members. Four members shall be elected from council districts described
16 in subsection (b) of this section. Two members shall be elected at large as provided in
17 subsection (f) of this section. The mayor shall be elected at large as provided in
18 subsection (g) of this section.

19 (b) For purposes of electing members of the city council, other than the mayor and the two
20 at large council members, the City of Port Wentworth is divided into four council districts.
21 One member of the board shall be elected from each such district. The four council
22 districts shall be and correspond to those four numbered districts described in and attached
23 to and made a part of this Act and further identified as Plan Name: pwcc4dp2 Plan Type:
24 Local User: Shantee Administrator: S002.

25 (c) When used in such attachment, the terms 'Tract' and 'BG' (Block Group) shall mean
26 and describe the same geographical boundaries as provided in the report of the Bureau of
27 the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia. The
28 separate numeric designations in a Tract description which are underneath a 'BG' heading
29 shall mean and describe individual Blocks within a Block Group as provided in the report
30 of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of
31 Georgia. Any part of the City of Port Wentworth which is not included in any such district
32 described in that attachment shall be included within that district contiguous to such part
33 which contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of 2000
34 for the State of Georgia. Any part of the City of Port Wentworth which is described in that
35 attachment as being in a particular district shall nevertheless not be included within such
36 district if such part is not contiguous to such district. Such noncontiguous part shall instead

1 be included within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least population
2 according to the United States decennial census of 2000 for the State of Georgia.

3 (d) No person shall be mayor or a member of the city council if that person is ineligible
4 for such office pursuant to Code Section 45-2-1 of the O.C.G.A. or any other general law
5 applicable to that office.

6 (e) In order to be elected or appointed as a member of the city council from a council
7 district, a person must have resided in that council district for at least six months prior to
8 election or appointment thereto and, if elected, must receive a plurality of votes cast for that
9 office in that district only and not at large. Only electors who are residents of that council
10 district may vote for a member of the council for that district. At the time of qualifying for
11 election as a member of the city council from a council district, each candidate for such
12 office shall specify the council district for which that person is a candidate. A person
13 elected or appointed as a member of the city council from a council district must continue
14 to reside in that district during that person's term of office or that office shall become
15 vacant.

16 (f) In order to be elected or appointed as an at-large member of the city council, a person
17 must have resided in the city for at least six months prior to election or appointment thereto
18 and, if elected, must receive a plurality of votes cast for that office at large. Only electors
19 who are residents of the city may vote for an at-large member of the council. At the time
20 of qualifying for election as an at-large member of the city council, each candidate for such
21 office shall specify the post for which that person is an at-large candidate. A person elected
22 or appointed as an at-large member of the city council must continue to reside in the city
23 during that person's term of office or that office shall become vacant.

24 (g) In order to be elected or appointed as mayor, a person must have resided in the City of
25 Port Wentworth for at least six months prior to election or appointment thereto and, if
26 elected, must receive a plurality of votes cast for that office in the entire city. The mayor
27 must continue to reside within the city during that person's term of office or that office
28 shall become vacant.

29 (h)(1) The mayor and members of the reconstituted city council of the City of Port
30 Wentworth shall be elected as provided in this subsection.

31 (2) The first members from Council Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 shall be elected at the general
32 election on the Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 2009. Those
33 members of the city council elected thereto from Council Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 in 2009
34 shall take office the first day of January immediately following that election and shall
35 serve for initial terms of office which expire December 31, 2013, and upon the election
36 and qualification of their respective successors.

1 (3) The first at-large members from Posts 1 and 2 shall be elected at the general election
2 on the Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 2009. Those at-large
3 members of the city council elected thereto from Posts 1 and 2 in 2009 shall take office
4 the first day of January immediately following that election and shall serve for initial
5 terms of office which expire December 31, 2013, and upon the election and qualification
6 of their respective successors.

7 (4) The mayor shall be elected at the general election on the Tuesday next following the
8 first Monday in November, 2009. The mayor shall take office on the first day of January
9 immediately following that election and shall serve for an initial term of office which
10 expires on December 31, 2013, and upon the election and qualification of the mayor's
11 successor.

12 (5) Those and all future successors to the mayor and members of the city council whose
13 terms of office are to expire shall be elected at the time of the municipal general election
14 immediately preceding the expiration of such terms, shall take office the first day of
15 January immediately following that election, and shall serve for terms of office of four
16 years each. The mayor and members of the city council shall serve for the terms of office
17 specified therefor in this subsection and until their respective successors are elected and
18 qualified.

19 (i) All members of the board who are elected thereto shall be nominated and elected in
20 accordance with Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the 'Georgia Election Code' in
21 nonpartisan elections as provided in Code Section 21-2-139 of the O.C.G.A. Political
22 parties shall not conduct primaries for city offices and all names of candidates shall be
23 listed without party designations."

24 SECTION 2.

25 The governing authority of the City of Port Wentworth shall through its legal counsel cause
26 this Act to be submitted for preclearance under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as
27 amended; and such submission shall be made to the United States Department of Justice or
28 filed with the appropriate court no later than 45 days after the date on which this Act is
29 approved by the Governor or otherwise becomes law without such approval.

30 SECTION 3.

31 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.

1 Plan Name: pwcc4dp2 Plan Type: Local User: Shantee Administrator: S002

2 Redistricting Plan Components Report

3 District 001

4 Chatham County

5 Tract: 107

6 BG: 1

7 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1009 1010 1011 1012 1013

8 1014 1015 1016 1017 1019 1020 1021 1022 1023 1024 1025 1029

9 1030 1031 1032 1033 1034 1035 1036 1037 1038 1039 1040 1041

10 1042 1051 1052 1053 1054 1055 1056 1057 1058 1059 1062 1063

11 1064 1067 1068 1069 1073 1997 1998

12 BG: 3

13 3018 3019 3020

14 BG: 4

15 4020 4021 4022 4000 4001 4002 4003 4004 4005 4006 4007 4008

16 4009 4010 4011 4012 4013 4014 4015 4016 4017 4018 4019 4026

17 District 002

18 Chatham County

19 Tract: 107

20 BG: 5

21 5009 5010 5011 5012 5013 5014 5015 5022

22 District 003

23 Chatham County

24 Tract: 107

25 BG: 3

26 3023 3024 3025 3026 3027 3028 3029 3030 3031 3032 3033

27 BG: 5

28 5005 5006 5007 5008 5016 5017 5018

- 1 District 004
- 2 Chatham County
- 3 Tract: 107
- 4 BG: 1
- 5 1065 1165 1166 1168 1171 1172 1983 1984 1986 1987 1992 1993
- 6 BG: 3
- 7 3001 3003 3004 3005 3006 3008 3009 3010 3011 3012 3013 3014
- 8 3015 3016 3017 3021 3022 3034 3997 3998