

Senate Resolution 279

By: Senators Douglas of the 17th, Harp of the 29th, Williams of the 19th, Brown of the 26th, Staton of the 18th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Georgia so as to provide for staggered,  
 2 four-year terms of office for members of the Senate; to provide for the implementation of  
 3 staggered terms of office for members of the Senate; to provide that members of the House  
 4 of Representatives shall be elected to terms and in a manner as provided by general law; to  
 5 provide for related matters; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification  
 6 or rejection; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

### 8 SECTION 1.

9 Article III, Section II of the Constitution is amended by revising Paragraph V as follows:

10 **"Paragraph V. Election and term of members.** (a) The members of the ~~General~~  
 11 ~~Assembly~~ House of Representatives shall be elected by the qualified electors of their  
 12 respective districts for a term of two years and shall serve until the time fixed for the  
 13 ~~convening of the next General Assembly~~ terms and in a manner as provided by general  
 14 law. Except as provided in subparagraph (c) of this Paragraph, the members of the Senate  
 15 shall be elected by the qualified electors of their respective districts for a term of four years  
 16 and until the time fixed for the convening of the next General Assembly.

17 (b) The members of the General Assembly in office on June 30, ~~1983~~ 2009, shall serve  
 18 out the remainder of the terms to which elected.

19 (c) ~~The first election for members of the General Assembly under this Constitution shall~~  
 20 ~~take place on Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1984, and subsequent elections~~  
 21 ~~biennially on that day until the day of election is changed by law. The first election for~~  
 22 members of the Senate under this Paragraph shall take place on Tuesday after the first  
 23 Monday in November, 2010, and subsequent elections biennially on that day until the day  
 24 of election is changed by law. In the 2010 general election, the members of the Senate  
 25 from odd-numbered districts shall be elected to two-year terms of office and the members  
 26 of the Senate from even-numbered districts shall be elected to four-year terms of office.  
 27 Thereafter, in all subsequent elections, members of the Senate shall be elected at the

1 general election immediately preceding the end of their terms of office for four-year terms  
2 of office.

3 **SECTION 2.**

4 The above proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be published and submitted as  
5 provided in Article X, Section I, Paragraph II of the Constitution. The ballot submitting the  
6 above proposed amendment shall have written or printed thereon the following:

7 "( ) YES Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to provide for staggered,  
8 four-year terms of office for members of the Senate of the General  
9 ( ) NO Assembly of Georgia in a similar manner to the members of the United  
States Senate?"

10 All persons desiring to vote in favor of ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "Yes."

11 All persons desiring to vote against ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "No." If  
12 such amendment shall be ratified as provided in said Paragraph of the Constitution, it shall  
13 become a part of the Constitution of this state.