

A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide for a state-wide base value
 2 homestead exemption from county ad valorem taxes for county purposes; to provide for
 3 definitions; to specify the terms and conditions of the exemption and procedures relating
 4 thereto; to specify procedures to discontinue such exemption within a county; to provide for
 5 applicability; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection;
 6 and for other purposes.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

8 Article VII, Section II of the Constitution is amended by adding a new Paragraph at the end
 9 thereof, to be designated Paragraph VI, to read as follows:

10 "Paragraph VI. *Base value homestead exemption.* (a) For purposes of this Paragraph,
 11 the term:

12 (1) 'Base value' means the purchase price of the homestead property paid by the most
 13 recent owner of such homestead.

14 (2) 'County ad valorem taxes' means all county ad valorem taxes for county purposes
 15 levied by, for, or on behalf of a county, except for taxes to pay interest on and to retire
 16 county bonded indebtedness.

17 (3) 'Homestead' means the homestead as defined and qualified by general law for other
 18 general law homestead exemptions, with the additional qualification that it shall include
 19 not more than five contiguous acres of homestead property.

20 (b) Each resident of a county is granted an exemption on that person's homestead from
 21 all county ad valorem taxes in an amount equal to the amount by which the current year
 22 assessed value of that homestead exceeds the base value of that homestead. This
 23 exemption shall not apply to taxes assessed on improvements to such homestead or
 24 additional land that is added to such homestead after January 1 of the base year. If any real
 25 property is removed from such homestead, the base value shall be adjusted to reflect such
 26

1 removal, and the exemption shall be recalculated accordingly. The value of that property
2 in excess of such exempted amount shall remain subject to taxation.

3 (c) A person shall not receive the homestead exemption granted by this Paragraph unless
4 such person or person's agent files an application with the tax commissioner of the county
5 giving such information relative to receiving such exemption as will enable the tax
6 commissioner to make a determination regarding the initial and continuing eligibility of
7 such person for such exemption. The tax commissioner of the county shall provide
8 application forms for this purpose.

9 (d) The exemption shall be claimed and returned as provided by general law for other
10 homestead exemptions. The exemption shall be automatically renewed from year to year
11 so long as the person granted the homestead exemption under this Paragraph occupies the
12 residence as a homestead. After a person has filed the proper application as provided in
13 this Paragraph, it shall not be necessary to make application thereafter for any year, and the
14 exemption shall continue to be allowed to such person. It shall be the duty of any person
15 granted the homestead exemption under this Paragraph to notify the tax commissioner of
16 the county in the event that person for any reason becomes ineligible for that exemption.

17 (e) The homestead exemption granted by this Paragraph shall not apply to or affect any
18 state ad valorem taxes, county or independent school district ad valorem taxes for
19 educational purposes, or municipal ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes. The
20 homestead exemption granted by this Paragraph shall be in addition to and not in lieu of
21 any other homestead exemption.

22 (f) The exemption granted by this Paragraph shall apply to all taxable years beginning
23 on or after January 1, 2009.

24 (g) The General Assembly shall be authorized to discontinue the exemption granted
25 under this Paragraph with respect to the ad valorem taxes of a county by local law
26 conditioned upon approval by a majority of the qualified electors residing within the limits
27 of the county voting in a referendum thereon."

28 SECTION 2.

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

32 "() YES Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to provide for a
33 () NO state-wide base value homestead exemption from county ad valorem taxes
for county purposes in an amount equal to the difference between the
homestead purchase price and the current year assessed value?"

1 All persons desiring to vote in favor of ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "Yes."
2 All persons desiring to vote against ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "No." If
3 such amendment shall be ratified as provided in said Paragraph of the Constitution, it shall
4 become a part of the Constitution of this state.