

House Bill 1253

By: Representatives Anderson of the 117th, Keen of the 179th, Porter of the 143rd, Rogers of the 26th, McCall of the 30th, and others

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Georgia
2 Election Code," so as to clarify that general municipal elections may be held in such years
3 as are specified by local law; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to
4 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

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

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Georgia Election
8 Code," is amended in Code Section 21-2-9, relating to dates of elections, by revising
9 subsection (b) as follows:

10 "(b) All general municipal elections to fill municipal offices shall be held on the Tuesday
11 next following the first Monday in November in ~~each odd-numbered year~~ such years as are
12 specified by local law. Public notice of such elections shall be published by the governing
13 authority of the municipality in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality at
14 least 30 days prior to the elections. In addition, the municipality shall immediately transmit
15 a copy of such notice to the Secretary of State."

16 **SECTION 2.**

17 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Sections 21-2-541.1 and 21-2-541.2,
18 relating to municipal terms of office and municipal election dates, respectively, as follows:
19 "21-2-541.1.

20 All municipal offices elected at general municipal elections shall be for terms of four years
21 unless otherwise provided by local law ~~in accordance with Code Section 21-2-541.2~~.
22 Unless otherwise provided for by the municipal charter, municipal officeholders shall be
23 sworn in at their first organizational meeting of the new year and will hold office until their
24 successors are duly elected and qualified and take said oath of office.

25 21-2-541.2.

26 Reserved.

27 Notwithstanding Code Section 1-3-11 or any other provision of this chapter, the General
28 Assembly is authorized to provide by local law:

29 (1) For terms of two years for municipal offices, with the local law designating the
30 offices to be elected and the time periods covered by such terms for each office;

31 (2) For municipal offices to change from concurrent terms to staggered terms or from
32 staggered terms to concurrent terms, with the local law designating the terms for each
33 office;

34 (3) For such terms to be staggered terms, with the local law designating the terms for
35 each office;

36 (4) For general municipal elections to fill such offices to be held on the Tuesday next
37 following the first Monday in November in even-numbered years and on such day
38 biennially thereafter and on the Tuesday next following the first Monday in November
39 in odd-numbered years and on such day biennially thereafter;

40 (5) For municipal offices elected pursuant to a prior local law authorized by this Code
41 section to change to terms of office of four years, with the local law designating the
42 offices to be elected and the time periods covered by such terms for each office;

43 (6) For general municipal elections to fill such offices to be held on the Tuesday next
44 following the first Monday in November in any year during the first six years
45 immediately following the enactment of a local law pursuant to this Code section as
46 necessary for the purpose of changing the election and terms of any such municipal
47 offices to conform to this Code section;

48 (7) For initial terms of one, two, three, or four years as necessary to change the terms of
49 such offices to four-year concurrent or staggered terms of office; and

50 (8) Except as authorized in paragraph (6) of this Code section, for general municipal
51 elections to be held on the Tuesday next following the first Monday in November of any
52 odd-numbered year."

53 **SECTION 3.**

54 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
55 without such approval.

56 **SECTION 4.**

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