

House Bill 1294

By: Representative Maddox of the 127<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act entitled "An Act to provide a new charter for the City of Williamson,"  
2 approved April 7, 1992 (Ga. L. 1992, p. 5651), so as to change the terms of office of the  
3 mayor and members of the city council; to provide for elections; to provide for the  
4 submission of this Act for preclearance under Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of  
5 1965, as amended; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 An Act entitled "An Act to provide a new charter for the City of Williamson," approved  
9 April 7, 1992 (Ga. L. 1992, p. 5651), is amended by revising Section 2.11 as follows:

10 "SECTION 2.11.

11 City council terms and qualifications for office.

12 The members of the city council shall serve for terms of four years and until their  
13 respective successors are elected and qualified. No person shall be eligible to serve as  
14 councilmember unless such person meets the requirements of a qualified elector for  
15 members of the General Assembly, has been a resident of the city for three months  
16 immediately prior to the date of the election of members of the city council, and has no  
17 delinquent debts outstanding against him or her in favor of the city. Each councilmember  
18 shall continue to reside in the city during such councilmember's period of service and be  
19 registered and qualified to vote in municipal elections of this city."

20 **SECTION 2.**

21 Said Act is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Section 2.27 as follows:

22 "(a) The mayor shall be elected and serve for a term of four years and until a successor is  
23 elected and qualified. The mayor shall be a qualified elector of this city, shall have been

24 a resident of the city for at least three months immediately preceding such election, and  
25 shall have no delinquent debts outstanding against him or her in favor of the city. The  
26 mayor shall continue to reside in this city during the period of service as mayor. The  
27 mayor shall forfeit office on the same grounds and under the same procedures as for  
28 councilmembers. The compensation of the mayor shall be established in the same manner  
29 as for councilmembers."

30 **SECTION 3.**

31 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 5.11 as follows:

32 "SECTION 5.11.

33 Regular elections; time for holding.

34 (a) On the Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 2012, there shall be an  
35 election for successors to the mayor and councilmembers representing Posts 1, 4, and 5.  
36 The persons elected at such election shall serve until December 31, 2015, and until their  
37 successors have been duly elected and qualified. Their successors shall be elected at the  
38 general municipal election held in 2015 and quadrennially thereafter and shall take office  
39 in January, 2016, to serve terms of four years and until their successors are duly elected and  
40 qualified. On the Tuesday next following the first Monday in November, 2013, and on that  
41 day quadrennially thereafter, there shall be an election for successors to the  
42 councilmembers representing Posts 2 and 3. The terms of office shall begin at the time of  
43 taking the oath of office as provided in Section 2.18 of this charter.

44 (b) The mayor and councilmembers in office on the effective date of this section shall  
45 remain in office until their successors are duly elected and qualified."

46 **SECTION 4.**

47 The governing authority of the City of Williamson shall through its legal counsel cause this  
48 Act to be submitted for preclearance under Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of  
49 1965, as amended, no later than 45 days after the date on which this Act is approved by the  
50 Governor or otherwise becomes law without such approval.

51 **SECTION 5.**

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