

House Bill 980

By: Representatives Powell of the 32<sup>nd</sup>, Rynders of the 152<sup>nd</sup>, Clark of the 147<sup>th</sup>, and Brockway of the 102<sup>nd</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 primaries and elections generally, so as to provide for the reopening of qualifications in  
3 municipal elections under certain conditions; to provide for related matters; to provide an  
4 effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to primaries and  
8 elections generally, is amended by revising paragraph (4) of subsection (c) of Code  
9 Section 21-2-132, relating to filing notice of candidacy, nomination petition, and affidavit;  
10 payment of qualifying fee; pauper's affidavit and qualifying petition for exemption from  
11 qualifying fee; and military service, as follows:

12 "(3)(A) Each candidate for a nonpartisan municipal office or a designee shall file a  
13 notice of candidacy in the office of the municipal superintendent of such candidate's  
14 municipality during the municipality's nonpartisan qualifying period. Each municipal  
15 superintendent shall designate the days of such qualifying period, which shall be no less  
16 than three days and no more than five days. The days of the qualifying period shall be  
17 consecutive days. Nonpartisan qualifying periods shall commence no earlier than 8:30  
18 A.M. on the last Monday in August immediately preceding the general election and  
19 shall end no later than 4:30 P.M. on the following Friday; and, in the case of a special  
20 election, the municipal nonpartisan qualifying period shall commence no earlier than  
21 the date of the call and shall end no later than 25 days prior to the election;~~and~~

22 (B) In any case in which no individual has filed a notice of candidacy and paid the  
23 prescribed qualifying fee to fill a particular office in a nonpartisan municipal election,  
24 the governing authority of the municipality shall be authorized to reopen qualifying for  
25 candidates at 9:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the close of the preceding  
26 qualifying period and cease such qualifying at 5:00 P.M. on the Tuesday immediately

27 following such Monday notwithstanding the fact that such days may be legal holidays;  
28 and"

29 **SECTION 2.**

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

32 **SECTION 3.**

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