

House Bill 507 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Glanton of the 75<sup>th</sup>, Douglas of the 78<sup>th</sup>, Stovall of the 74<sup>th</sup>, Burnough of the 77<sup>th</sup>, and Scott of the 76<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act to provide a new charter for the City of Jonesboro, approved April 4, 1996  
2 (Ga. L. 1996, p. 4056), as amended, so as to create districts for the election of members of  
3 the governing authority; to provide for definitions and inclusions; to provide for method of  
4 election; to provide for the continuation in office of current members; to provide for elections  
5 by plurality; to provide for related matters; to provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting  
6 laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act to provide a new charter for the City of Jonesboro, approved April 4, 1996 (Ga. L.  
10 1996, p. 4056), is amended by revising Section 5.11 as follows:

11 "SECTION 5.11.

12 Election of the city council and mayor.

13 (a) For the purpose electing councilmembers of the City of Jonesboro, the city shall be  
14 divided into three districts. Districts 1, 2, and 3 shall correspond to those three numbered  
15 districts described in and attached to and made a part of this Act and further identified as  
16 'Plan: jonesboro-pl-2017 Plan Type: Local Administrator: HD75 User: Gina.'

17 (b)(1) For the purposes of such plan:

18 (A) The term 'VTD' shall mean and describe the same geographical boundaries as  
19 provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial  
20 census of 2010 for the State of Georgia. The separate numeric designations in a district  
21 description which are underneath a 'VTD' heading shall mean and describe individual  
22 Blocks within a VTD as provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the  
23 United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia; and

24 (B) Except as otherwise provided in the description of any district, whenever the  
25 description of any district refers to a named city, it shall mean the geographical  
26 boundaries of that city as shown on the census maps for the United States decennial  
27 census of 2010 for the State of Georgia.

28 (2) Any part of the City of Jonesboro which is not included in any district described in  
29 subsection (a) of this section shall be included within that district contiguous to such part  
30 which contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of  
31 2010 for the State of Georgia.

32 (3) Any part of the City of Jonesboro which is described in subsection (a) of this section  
33 as being included in a particular district shall nevertheless not be included within such  
34 district if such part is not contiguous to such district. Such noncontiguous part shall  
35 instead be included within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least  
36 population according to the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of  
37 Georgia.

38 (c) There shall be two members of the city council elected by each district each holding  
39 Post 1 or Post 2. A candidate shall designate the district and post for which such candidate  
40 offers for election. A candidate shall have been a resident of the district for which such  
41 candidate offers for election at least 12 months prior to election. Members of the city  
42 council shall be elected by qualified voters of the district for which they offer for election.  
43 The election of members of the city council shall be conducted in accordance with the  
44 provisions of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the 'Georgia Election Code.'

45 (d) The members of the city council elected in the November, 2013, general election shall  
46 continue in office for the terms to which they were elected and until successors are elected  
47 and qualified as provided in this Act. The members of the city council elected in the  
48 November, 2015, general election shall continue in office for the terms to which they were  
49 elected and until successors are elected and qualified as provided in this Act.

50 (e) The first members of the reconstituted governing authority of the City of Jonesboro  
51 from District 3 and the member from District 2, Post 1, shall be elected in the November,  
52 2017, general election. Such members shall take office on January 1 following their  
53 election for terms of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified.

54 (f) The first members of the reconstituted governing authority of the City of Jonesboro  
55 from District 1 and the member from District 2, Post 2, shall be elected in the November,  
56 2019, general election. Such members shall take office on January 1 following their  
57 election for terms of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified.

58 (g) Successors to members elected under subsections (e) and (f) of this section shall be  
59 elected in the November general election next preceding the expiration of such terms of

60 office and shall take office on January 1 following their election for terms of four years and  
61 until their successors are elected and qualified."

62 **SECTION 2.**

63 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 5.13 as follows:

64 "SECTION 5.13.

65 Election by plurality.

66 All elections in the city shall be determined by plurality. The person receiving a plurality  
67 of the votes cast for mayor and the person receiving the most votes for each council post  
68 shall be elected."

69 **SECTION 3.**

70 The provisions of this Act relating to and necessary for the 2017 regular election of members  
71 of the governing authority of the City of Jonesboro shall become effective upon its approval  
72 by the Governor or upon its becoming effective without such approval; and this Act shall  
73 otherwise become effective January 1, 2018.

74 **SECTION 4.**

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