

House Bill 549 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Stovall of the 74<sup>th</sup>, Douglas of the 78<sup>th</sup>, Glanton of the 75<sup>th</sup>, Bazemore of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, Scott of the 76<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act to provide a new charter for the City of Lovejoy in the County of Clayton,  
2 approved March 31, 1976 (Ga. L. 1976, p. 3897), as amended, so as to provide for a  
3 governing authority; to create districts for the election of members of the governing  
4 authority; to provide for definitions and inclusions; to provide for method of election; to  
5 provide for the continuation in office of current members; to provide for related matters; to  
6 provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting 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 Lovejoy in the County of Clayton, approved  
10 March 31, 1976 (Ga. L. 1976, p. 3897), as amended, is amended by revising Section 2.01 as  
11 follows:

12 **"Section 2.01. Establishment of city government.** The corporate governmental powers  
13 of the City of Lovejoy shall be vested in a mayor and four councilmembers to the known  
14 as the 'mayor and council.' The mayor shall be elected at large by the qualified voters of  
15 the city. The councilmembers shall be elected in the manner provided by general law and  
16 this charter."

17 **SECTION 2.**

18 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 2.03 as follows:

19 **"Section 2.03. Election of mayor and councilmembers.**

20 (a) For the purpose of electing the four councilmembers of the City of Lovejoy, the city  
21 shall be divided into two districts. Districts 1 and 2 shall correspond to those two  
22 numbered districts described in a plan and attached to and made a part of this Act and  
23 further identified as 'Plan: lovejoy-p2-2016 Plan Type: Local Administrator: HD74 User:  
24 Gina'.

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

26 (A) The term 'VTD' shall mean and describe the same geographical boundaries as  
27 provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial  
28 census of 2010 for the State of Georgia. The separate numeric designations in a district  
29 description which are underneath a 'VTD' heading shall mean and describe individual  
30 blocks within a VTD as provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the  
31 United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia; and

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

36 (2) Any part of City of Lovejoy that is not included in any district described in  
37 subsection (a) of this section shall be included within that district contiguous to such part  
38 which contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of  
39 2010 for the State of Georgia.

40 (3) Any part of City of Lovejoy which is described in subsection (a) of this section as  
41 being included in a particular district shall nevertheless not be included within such  
42 district if such part is not contiguous to such district. Such noncontiguous part shall  
43 instead be included within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least  
44 population according to the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of  
45 Georgia.

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

53 (d) The members of the city council elected in the November, 2015, general election shall  
54 continue in office for the terms to which they were elected and until successors are elected  
55 and qualified as provided in this Act.

56 (e) The first members of the reconstituted governing authority of City of Lovejoy from  
57 District 1 shall be elected in the November, 2019, general election. Such members shall  
58 take office on January 1 following their election for terms of two years and until their  
59 successors are elected and qualified.

60 (f) The first members of the reconstituted governing authority of City of Lovejoy from  
61 District 2 shall be elected in the November, 2019, general election. Such members shall

62 take office on January 1 following their election for terms of four years and until their  
63 successors are elected and qualified.

64 (g) Successors to members elected under subsections (e) and (f) of this section shall be  
65 elected in the November general election next preceding the expiration of such terms of  
66 office and shall take office on January 1 following their election for terms of four years and  
67 until their successors are elected and qualified."

68 **SECTION 3.**

69 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 6.01 as follows:

70 **"Section 6.01. Regular elections.** The regular elections for mayor and councilmembers  
71 shall be held in November of odd-numbered years."

72 **SECTION 4.**

73 The provisions of this Act relating to and necessary for the 2019 regular election of members  
74 of the governing authority of the City of Lovejoy shall become effective upon its approval  
75 by the Governor or upon its becoming effective without such approval; and this Act shall  
76 otherwise become effective January 1, 2020.

77 **SECTION 5.**

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