

House Resolution 845

By: Representatives Taylor of the 173rd, Sainz of the 180th, and Anderson of the 10th

A RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide that members of county
2 governing authorities elected from single-member districts shall represent no more
3 than 50,000 residents; to authorize the General Assembly to increase the size of such
4 governing authorities, notwithstanding local constitutional amendments or other law to the
5 contrary; to provide for the automatic increase in the size of county governing authorities to
6 maintain such representation ratio; to provide districts, initial terms, and elections of new
7 members of such governing authorities; to authorize subsequent local legislation; to provide
8 for related matters; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or
9 rejection; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Article IX, Section I of the Constitution is amended by revising Paragraph I as follows:

13 "Paragraph I. ***Counties a body corporate and politic.*** (a) Each county shall be a body
14 corporate and politic with such governing authority and with such powers and limitations
15 as are provided in this Constitution and as provided by law. Except as provided for in
16 subparagraphs (b) or (c) of this paragraph, the ~~The~~ governing authorities of the several

counties shall remain as prescribed by law on June 30, 1983, until otherwise provided by law.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of any local amendment to the Constitution continued in effect pursuant to Article XI, Section I, Paragraph IV or any existing general or local law, in no event shall the governing authority of a county be of such a size wherein the members of such governing authority elected from single-member election districts represent more than 50,000 residents per district. The provision of this subparagraph shall not prohibit a single member of a county governing authority being elected at-large county wide, the chairperson of a county governing authority being elected at-large county wide, or a county governing authority composed of a sole member being elected at-large county wide.

(c) In the event that the General Assembly does not adopt a local law increasing the size of a county governing authority to ensure that the member to resident ratio provided for in subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph is not violated within either one year of such subparagraph going into force and effect or within 18 months of the release of the results of the most recent decennial United States Census, then the size of such governing authority shall automatically increase to such size so as to meet the ratio provided for in subparagraph (b), with the existing single-member election districts becoming multimember districts and the new members being evenly divided between such districts. The initial vacancies in such new offices shall be filled in a special election to be held on the earliest date available for such election as provided by general law, and the members elected at such special election shall serve initial terms ending on the first day of January immediately following the next general election held in an even-numbered year. The General Assembly shall have the authority to adopt local laws to revise the size, districts, and terms of a governing authority subject to this subparagraph, provided that the member to resident ratio required by subparagraph (b) is maintained."

SECTION 2.

The above proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be published and submitted as provided in Article X, Section I, Paragraph II of the Constitution. The ballot submitting the above proposed amendment shall have written or printed thereon the following:

"() YES Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to provide a maximum
() NO ratio of the number of residents to members of a county governing authority,
so that no member of a county governing authority shall represent a district
of more than 50,000 residents, and to provide for the automatic increase in the
size of county governing authorities to ensure that such ratio is maintained?"

All persons desiring to vote in favor of ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "Yes."
All persons desiring to vote against ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "No." If
such amendment shall be ratified as provided in said Paragraph of the Constitution, it shall
become a part of the Constitution of this state.