

House Bill 164

By: Representative Smith of the 18th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act to provide a new charter for the City of Mount Zion, approved May 12,
2 2015 (Ga. L. 2015, p. 3862), so as to provide that members of the city council shall be
3 elected from districts instead of at large; to provide district residency requirements for
4 councilmembers; to revise election procedures to provide for district elections; to provide the
5 description of council districts; to provide for definitions and inclusions; to provide for
6 continuation in office of current councilmembers; to provide for related matters; to repeal
7 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 An Act to provide a new charter for the City of Mount Zion, approved May 12, 2015 (Ga.
11 L. 2015, p. 3862), is amended by revising Sections 2.10 and 2.11 as follows:

12 "SECTION 2.10.

13 City council creation, composition, number, election.

14 The legislative authority of the government of this city, except as otherwise specifically
15 provided in this charter, shall be vested in a city council to be composed of a mayor and
16 four councilmembers. The mayor and council members shall be elected in a manner
17 provided in Article V of this charter.

18 SECTION 2.11.

19 City council terms and qualifications for office.

20 The mayor of the city shall serve for a term of four years consecutive and until his or her
21 successor is elected and qualified. The members of the city council shall serve for terms
22 of four years consecutive and until their respective successors are elected and qualified.
23 No person shall be eligible to serve as mayor or councilmember unless he or she is a
24 qualified municipal voter and shall have been a resident of the city for one year
25 immediately prior to the date of his or her qualifying for said position. No person shall be
26 eligible to serve as a councilmember unless he or she has been a resident of the district he
27 or she is elected from for six months immediately prior to the date of his or her qualifying
28 for said position. The mayor and each councilmember shall continue to reside within the
29 city limits proper during his or her period of service, and each councilmember shall
30 continue to reside within the district from which he or she was elected during his or her
31 period of service."

32 SECTION 2.

33 Said Act is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Section 2.17 as follows:

“(a) The office of mayor and councilmember shall become vacant upon the incumbent's death, resignation, forfeiture of office, relocation of residency outside the city limits proper, or removal from office in any manner authorized by this charter or the general laws of the State of Georgia. The office of councilmember shall become vacant upon the incumbent's relocation of residency outside the district from which he or she was elected.”

SECTION 3.

Said Act is further amended by revising subsections (c), (d), and (e) and adding a new subsection to Section 5.11 as follows:

“(c) The mayor shall be elected by the voters of the city at large. The mayor in office on the effective date of this Act shall remain in office until his or her successor is elected and takes office as provided for in this charter.

(d) The councilmembers from District 1 and District 2 shall be elected in 2023 and every four years thereafter.

(e) The councilmembers from District 3 and District 4 shall be elected in 2025 and every four years thereafter.

(f) The four councilmembers to be elected as provided in this section shall be elected from the districts provided for in Section 5.14. Only electors who are residents of a particular district may vote for a councilmember from that district. At the time of qualifying for election as a councilmember, each candidate for such office shall specify the district for which that person is a candidate."

SECTION 4.

Said Act is further amended by adding a new section to read as follows:

"SECTION 5.14.

(a) For the purpose of electing councilmembers the City of Mount Zion shall be divided into four council districts. Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 shall be and correspond to those four numbered districts described in Appendix A attached to and made a part of this Act and further identified as 'User: Mt Zion Plan Name: mtzioncc-2023 Plan Type: Local'.

(b) For the purposes of such plan:

(1) The term 'VTD' shall mean and describe the same geographical boundaries as provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2020 for the State of Georgia. The separate numeric designations in a district description which are underneath a VTD heading shall mean and describe individual Blocks within a VTD as provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2020 for the State of Georgia; and

(2) Except as otherwise provided in the description of any district, whenever the description of any district refers to a named city, it shall mean the geographical boundaries of that city as shown on the census maps for the United States decennial census of 2020 for the State of Georgia.

(c) Any part of the City of Mount Zion which is not included in any district described in subsection (a) of this section shall be included within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of 2020 for the State of Georgia.

(d) Any part of the City of Mount Zion which is described in subsection (a) of this section as being included in a particular district shall nevertheless not be included within such district if such part is not contiguous to such district. Such noncontiguous part shall instead be included within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of 2020 for the State of Georgia.

(e) Any territory purportedly described in a district in subsection (a) of this section that is not within the corporate limits of the City of Mount Zion shall not be part of any such district.

(f) Those councilmembers who are serving as such on the effective date of this Act and any person selected to fill a vacancy in any such office shall continue to serve as such councilmembers until the regular expiration of their respective terms of office and upon the election and qualification of their respective successors.

(g) City Council Posts 1, 2, 3, and 4, as they exist immediately prior to the effective date of this Act, shall be designated as Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4, respectively, as newly described under this Act, and on and after the effective date of this Act, such councilmembers from those former posts shall be deemed to be serving from and representing their respective districts as newly described under this Act."

SECTION 5.

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

APPENDIX A

95
96 User: Mt Zion
97 Plan Name: mtzioncc-2023
98 Plan Type: Local

99 District 001
100 County Carroll GA
101 VTD MT ZION
102 Block 910302
103 2028 2029 2033 2034 2042 2043 2044 2054 2055 2058 2061 2062
104 2063 2072

105 District 002
106 County Carroll GA
107 VTD MT ZION
108 Block 910301
109 2015 2016
110 Block 910302
111 2059 2060

112 District 003
113 County Carroll GA
114 VTD MT ZION
115 Block 910301
116 2012 2020 2021 3000 3001 3002 3003
117 Block 910302
118 1034 1035 1036 1045 1047 2066 2068 2069

119 District 004

120 County Carroll GA

121 VTD MT ZION

122 Block 910302

123 1028 1029 1030 2032 2036 2037 2052 2053 2064 2065 2067