

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF CHAMBLEE’S REQUEST THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AMEND THE CITY OF CHAMBLEE’S CHARTER TO PROVIDE FOR THE ELECTION OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS BY SINGLE DISTRICT AND TO URGE REVIEW OF OTHER SIMILAR CHARTERS

WHEREAS, the City of Chamblee is a municipality within the bounds of DeKalb County, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb seeks to support the voting rights of all its residents, whether they reside in unincorporated DeKalb County or one of its incorporated municipalities; and

WHEREAS, under the City of Chamblee’s current Charter, the Mayor and one of the five Council members may reside anywhere within the City limits; four of the five members of the Council must reside in the district for which the member qualifies as a candidate to represent; but the Mayor and all five Council members are elected at large by all voters of the municipality in city-wide elections; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chamblee adopted a resolution on November 21, 2023 initiating the legislative process of transitioning from at-large election of council members to single district election of council members; and

WHEREAS, other municipalities located within the bounds of DeKalb County, Georgia may elect one or more of their city council representatives through a similar at-large voting method; and,

WHEREAS, since the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, numerous at-large election systems have been struck down under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, because such at-large systems, in combination with racially polarized voting, in some cases have been found to prevent voters of color from electing their candidates of choice where they are not the majority in the jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, restructuring of the City of Chamblee’s current election system for City Council members from at large city-wide elections to single district elections, where a majority of members are elected by and from only the district they have qualified to represent, will reduce the expense of running for City Council for all candidates, and may facilitate the candidacy of persons of color for City Council seats; and

WHEREAS, the right to vote is a fundamental principle of our democracy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners and the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County do hereby:

1. Express support for the City of Chamblee’s request that the Georgia General Assembly adopt local legislation amending the Charter of the City of Chamblee to require the election of a multiple, if not all, members of the City Council by single district elections, where members are elected by and from only the district the member has qualified to represent no later than the session beginning in January 2025; and

- 2. Urge officials of other cities located within the bounds of DeKalb County and the members of the DeKalb House and Senate Delegations to consider the adoption of local legislation amending the charter of any other city or cities located within the bounds of DeKalb County to require the election of a multiple, if not all, members of such city councils by single district elections, where members are elected by and from only the district the member has qualified to represent during the legislative session beginning in January 2025.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this ___ day of _____ 2025.

MEREDA DAVIS JOHNSON
 Presiding Officer
 Board of Commissioners
 DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer, this _____ day of _____, 2025.

LORRAINE COCHRAN-JOHNSON
 Chief Executive Officer
 DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD
 County Clerk
 Board of Commissioners and
 Chief Executive Officer

VIVIANE H. ERNSTES
 County Attorney
 DeKalb County, Georgia