



DeKalb County Government

Manuel J. Maloof Center
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Agenda Item Substitute

File #: 2021-3283
File Status: Action

2/8/2022

Public Hearing: YES NO **Department:** Board of Commissioners

SUBJECT:

Commission District(s): All Districts

A Resolution Of The Governing Authority of DeKalb County Requesting That The DeKalb Delegation Of The General Assembly Support Legislation to Amend The Georgia Elections Code To Allow Counties To Use Instant Runoff or “Rank Choice” Voting in Local Elections

Information Contact: John W. Manson IV

Phone Number: 404-371-6207

PURPOSE:

To support legislation that amends the State Election Code to allow Counties to utilize Instant Runoff Voting for their local elections and to Commission a study committee to evaluate Rank Choice Voting for all future elections held in the state of Georgia including federal, state, county, and municipal jurisdictions.

NEED/IMPACT:

To adopt the resolution;

FISCAL IMPACT:

None;

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the resolution and authorize the chief executive officer to execute all necessary documents.....

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA TO THE DEKALB COUNTY DELEGATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONVENE A STUDY TO REVIEW AMENDING THE GEORGIA ELECTIONS CODE TO ALLOW COUNTIES TO USE INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING IN LOCAL ELECTIONS, AND FOR OTHER LAWFUL PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority of DeKalb County requests that the DeKalb Delegation of the General Assembly support legislation amending the Georgia Elections code to allow Counties to use Instant Runoff or “Rank Choice” Voting in Local Elections; and,

WHEREAS, the current Elections Code of the State of Georgia allows for rank choice voting for ballots issued pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Act but otherwise only allows two electoral systems for County and municipal elections, plurality and two-round runoff majority system; and,

WHEREAS, amending the Elections Code of the State of Georgia to allow for Instant Runoff or “Rank Choice” Voting to be implemented for any election, if desired, by County Governments, can provide an option for local governments to better control the administrative and logistical costs of conducting elections and, thus, help reduce the tax burden on residents; and,

WHEREAS; several States, County Governments across the United States, and Georgia municipalities, including the City of Atlanta and City of Johns Creek, have adopted or support the adoption of Instant Runoff or “Rank Choice” Voting, and,

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority of DeKalb County believes that further research into and, the adoption of, Instant Runoff or “Rank Choice” Voting will provide an expedited delivery of democracy to citizens who wish to participate in the process of electing Local Representatives while reducing resource strain of providing elections services on local governments and therefore its citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DEKALB COUNTY GOVERNING AUTHORITY IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the DeKalb County Delegation of the General Assembly commission a study committee to evaluate Instant Runoff or “Rank Choice” Voting for all elections held in the state of Georgia including federal, state, county, and municipal elections, with the committee membership representative of all aforementioned levels of government, political parties, and non-partisan parties; and
2. That the Executive Assistant or his designee deliver a copy of this Resolution to each member of the Georgia General Assembly representing a portion of DeKalb County.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County, this _____ day of _____, 2022.

ROBERT J. PATRICK
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this _____ day of _____, 2022.

MICHAEL L. THURMOND
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BARBARA NORWOOD-SANDERS, CCC
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

VIVIANE H. ERNSTES
County Attorney