

House Bill 1483 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representative Leverett of the 123<sup>rd</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act providing a new charter for the City of Washington, Georgia, approved  
2 February 14, 1958 (Ga. L. 1958, p. 2139), as amended, so as to provide for term limits for  
3 the offices of mayor and councilmember; to provide for a referendum, effective dates, and  
4 automatic repeal; to provide for mandatory execution of election and judicial remedies  
5 regarding failure to comply; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for  
6 other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act providing a new charter for the City of Washington, Georgia, approved February 14,  
10 1958 (Ga. L. 1958, p. 2139), as amended, is amended by adding a new Section 4.12 to read  
11 as follows:

12 "SECTION 4.12.

13 Term limits.

14 (a) No person shall be eligible as a candidate for the office of mayor in the general  
 15 municipal election of 2025, or any election thereafter, if such candidate has served as  
 16 mayor for two consecutive four-year terms of office immediately preceding the election in  
 17 question. No term of office served as a councilmember shall be considered in determining  
 18 if a person is qualified to run for the office of mayor.

19 (b) No person shall be eligible as a candidate for the office of councilmember in the  
 20 general municipal election of 2025, or any election thereafter, if such candidate has served  
 21 as a councilmember for two consecutive four-year terms of office immediately preceding  
 22 the election in question. No term of office served as mayor shall be considered in  
 23 determining if a person is qualified to run for the office of councilmember."

24 **SECTION 2.**

25 The municipal election superintendent of the City of Washington shall call and conduct an  
 26 election as provided in this section for the purpose of submitting this Act to the electors of  
 27 the City of Washington for approval or rejection. The municipal election superintendent  
 28 shall conduct that election on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November, 2024,  
 29 and shall issue the call and conduct that election as provided by general law. The municipal  
 30 election superintendent shall cause the date and purpose of the election to be published once  
 31 a week for two weeks immediately preceding the date thereof in the official organ of Wilkes  
 32 County. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the words:

33 "( ) YES Shall the Act be approved which provides term limits for the mayor and  
 34 ( ) NO councilmembers of the City of Washington?"

35 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the Act shall vote "Yes," and all persons desiring  
 36 to vote for rejection of the Act shall vote "No." If more than one-half of the votes cast on

37 such question are for approval of the Act, Section 1 of this Act shall become of full force and  
38 effect on January 1, 2025. If the Act is not so approved or if the election is not conducted  
39 as provided in this section, Section 1 of this Act shall not become effective, and this Act shall  
40 be automatically repealed on the first day of July immediately following that election date.  
41 The expense of such election shall be borne by the City of Washington. It shall be the  
42 municipal election superintendent's duty to certify the result thereof to the Secretary of State.  
43 The provisions of this section shall be mandatory upon the municipal election superintendent  
44 and are not intended as directory. If the municipal election superintendent fails or refuses  
45 to comply with this section, any elector of the City of Washington may apply for a writ of  
46 mandamus to compel the municipal election superintendent to perform his or her duties  
47 under this section. If the court finds that the municipal election superintendent has not  
48 complied with this section, the court shall fashion appropriate relief requiring the municipal  
49 election superintendent to call and conduct such election on the date required by this section  
50 or on the next date authorized for special elections provided for in Code Section 21-2-540  
51 of the O.C.G.A.

52 **SECTION 3.**

53 Except as otherwise provided in Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall become effective upon  
54 its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

55 **SECTION 4.**

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