

CITY OF COLUMBUS CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSIONS.

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution.

No. 162 (Senate Resolution No. 311).

A RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to create at ten-year intervals a Charter Review Commission for the City of Columbus, Georgia, to study the charter of said city and, in its discretion, to propose changes in the existing charter which will be submitted to the voters of said city for their approval or rejection; to provide for powers and duties of the commission and other officials; to provide for intent; to provide for powers of the General Assembly; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
GEORGIA:

Section 1. Article IX, Section IV, Paragraph II of the Constitution is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

“(a) Any other provisions of this Constitution to the contrary notwithstanding, beginning in January, 1981, and at ten-year intervals thereafter, there shall be created a Charter Review Commission for the City of Columbus, Georgia, to study the charter of said city (sometimes referred to as the consolidated government of the City of Columbus and Muscogee County). The commission shall be composed of 25 members representing a fair cross section of citizens in the community, including but not limited to the various geographic, business, ethnic, racial, and gender segments of the city. Fifteen members shall be appointed by the mayor of Columbus, Georgia, and one member shall be appointed by each member of the council. The mayor shall designate the chairman of the commission. Vacancies in the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment by the mayor or a member of the council. The commission shall hold an organizational meeting at the call of the mayor, may elect additional officers, and shall adopt such rules and regulations necessary or desirable to carry out its powers and perform its duties and functions as provided in paragraphs (a), (b),

and (c). Members shall not be compensated for their services. All public officials of the city, upon request, shall furnish the commission with information and assistance necessary or appropriate for it to carry out its duties.

(b) The commission shall be required to hold at least two public hearings to determine the sentiment of the citizens regarding any proposed changes in the existing charter recommended by the commission. Said commission shall cause the date, time, and place of such hearings to be advertised in the official organ of the City of Columbus at least twice during the week immediately preceding the week during which such public hearings are held. The commission may hold additional public hearings, provided that such hearings are advertised as provided herein.

(c) The commission shall complete its work and report its recommendations to the governing authority of the city within 15 months after the date of its initial meeting, at which time the commission shall be abolished and terminated. The commission shall file with the clerk of the governing authority of the city certified copies of any proposed changes in the existing charter. Such copies shall be public records and shall be available for inspection or examination by any interested person.

(d) After the recommendations are filed with the governing authority, it shall be the duty of the election superintendent to issue the call for an election for the purpose of submitting any proposed changes in the existing charter to the qualified voters of the City of Columbus. Proposed changes in the existing charter shall be submitted to the voters separately. No proposed changes in the existing charter shall be submitted if they have not been approved by the Department of Justice if such approval is required by law. The election superintendent shall set the date of such election for the date of the general election held immediately following the completion of the commission's work. The election superintendent shall cause the date and purpose of the election to be published once a week for two weeks immediately preceding the date thereof in the official organ of the city. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon any number of the following:

'For approval of the change in the existing charter of the City of Columbus which provides that _____'

'Against approval of the change in the existing charter of the City of Columbus which provides that _____.'

With respect to each proposed change, all persons desiring to vote in favor of such change in the existing charter shall vote for approval, and those persons desiring to vote for rejection of any such change shall vote against approval. If more than one-half of the votes cast are for approval of any such change in the existing charter, then said change shall become effective on the first day of January immediately following the election; otherwise, such change in the existing charter shall be void and of no force and effect. The expense of such election shall be borne by the City of Columbus.

(e) The charter review commission shall not be authorized to propose changes in an existing charter which are contrary to the restrictions imposed on the General Assembly and the Muscogee County Charter Commission pursuant to an amendment to the Constitution ratified at the general election held in 1968 (Ga. Laws 1968, p. 1508).

(f) The provisions of paragraphs (a) through (e) and the powers of the charter review commission are in no way exclusive to the commission and are in no way intended to take away the power of the General Assembly to amend the charter and are cumulative to other powers provided by general or local law affecting the City of Columbus, Georgia.

(g) The General Assembly by local Act may change any of the powers or provisions relating to the charter review commission or abolish said charter review commission."

Section 2. The above proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be published and submitted as provided in Article XII, Section I, Paragraph I of the Constitution.

The ballot submitting the above proposed amendment shall have written or printed thereon the following:

"[] YES Shall the Constitution be amended so as to create at ten-year intervals a Charter Review Commission for the City of Columbus, Georgia,

[] NO to study the charter of said city and, in its discretion, to propose changes in the existing charter which will be submitted to the voters of said city for their approval or rejection?"

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.

FULTON COUNTY — PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE
DISTRICTS.

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution.

No. 163 (Senate Resolution No. 314).

A RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly to control or limit by local law the provision of public safety services by the governing authority of Fulton County and create districts within Fulton County and control or limit Fulton County ad valorem taxes within and without such districts to the end that Fulton County shall levy and collect ad valorem taxes to provide public safety services only within the area or areas of Fulton County where such services are directly provided by the governing authority of said county; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.