



ELECTION LAW CHANGES  
In  
CITIES AND COUNTIES  
In  
GEORGIA

MAY, 1976

voter education project report



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## INTRODUCTION

The information contained in this manual was compiled under a grant from the Voter Education Project (VEP). It contains a list of many of the significant election law changes in Georgia cities and counties that have occurred since the effective date of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

Under the grant, local legislation was researched for the years 1964 through 1975. Where a legislative change appeared to have a significant potential for discrimination, it was included in the tables. Also included is the status of the legislation under Section 5 - whether it was submitted to the Department of Justice and, if so, whether it was objected to. The information from the Department of Justice was taken from its master computer print-out for Georgia, which was current as of March 30, 1976.

It should be emphasized that these tables are not entirely complete and are limited in the following ways: (1) they generally list only the most obvious and serious election law changes (for example, annexations were not considered); (2) some acts of the General Assembly were omitted because it was difficult to determine whether they actually changed the election procedure in question; (3) the study only covers cities with a population in excess of 2,500 and a black population exceeding 15%, and counties with a black population in excess of 20%; and (4) none of the acts of the 1976 General Assembly were examined.

Needless to say, anyone who has a particular question about his or her local election system will have to check all post-1964 changes more closely than has this study. We hope, however, that the information in this study will provide a useful guide for some of the most significant changes in city and county election systems in Georgia. For persons with questions about the mechanics of Section 5, we suggest they consult Federal Review Of Voting Changes: How To Use Section 5 Of The Voting Rights Act, which was prepared by the VEP and other organizations.

John R. Lewis  
Executive Director



CITY	ELECTION PROCEDURES	SECTION 5 STATUS
ALMA	Georgia Laws 1967, P. 2643. Provides for numbering of Council posts and requires majority vote.	Not submitted
	Georgia Laws 1973, P. 3093. Establishes staggered terms for Council.	Not submitted
ASHBURN	Georgia Laws 1973, P. 3063. Majority vote requirement.	Not submitted
	Georgia Laws 1966, P. 3191. Provides for numbered posts for City Council.	Not submitted
ATHENS	Georgia Laws 1975, P. 3319. Establishes majority vote requirement for Mayor and Alderman.	Objection
BAINBRIDGE	Georgia Laws 1968, P. 2756. Established designated posts on City Council and added majority vote requirement.	Not submitted
BLACKSHEAR	Georgia Laws 1966, P. 2538. Majority vote required for Mayor.	Not submitted
BRUNSWICK	Georgia Laws 1965, P. 3188. Majority vote requirement.	Not submitted
BUFORD	Georgia Laws 1969, P. 3967. Establishes majority vote requirement.	Not submitted
CAIRO	Georgia Laws 1975, P. 3270. Run-off election required in absence of majority vote.	No objection
CAMILLA	Georgia Laws 1972, P. 2919. Majority vote requirement.	Not submitted



CITY	ELECTION PROCEDURES	STATUS
CARROLLTON	Georgia Laws 1974, P. 2791. Creation of numbered posts for Councilman, and staggered terms for election.	No objection
COCHRAN	Georgia Laws 1972, P. 3858. Majority vote requirement for Mayor and Alderman.	Objection
COMMERCE	Georgia Laws 1973, P. 3398. The two at large seats on Council were made numbered posts.	Not submitted
CONYERS	Georgia Laws 1970, P. 2719. Numbered posts and majority vote requirement for Mayor and Council.	Objection
COVINGTON	Georgia Laws 1967, P. 3157. Numbered posts and majority vote requirement.	Objection
DOUGLAS	Georgia Laws 1968, P. 2085. Majority vote requirement for Commissioners.	No objection
DUBLIN	Dublin's election procedures were challenged on both Section 5 and Constitutional grounds in Sheffield et.al v. Cochran et.al, Civil No. CV 374-14 (Southern District of Georgia). A permanent injunction was entered in that case requiring election of city officers in a combined system of word voting and at large voting.	
FORT VALLEY	Georgia Laws 1965, P. 2526. Numbered posts and majority vote requirement.	Objection
GAINESVILLE	Georgia Laws 1967, P. 2880. Majority vote required for City Commissioner.	Not submitted
GORDON	Georgia Laws 1965, P. 2342. Numbered posts and majority vote requirement.  A Federal Action has been filed in the Middle District of Georgia regarding the Gordon election system.	Not submitted



		STATUE
HARTWELL	Georgia Laws 1972, P. 3743. Majority vote requirement for Mayor and Council.	Not submitted
HAWKINSVILLE	Georgia Laws 1969, P. 3802. Numbered posts and majority vote requirement for City Commission.	Not submitted
HINESVILLE	Georgia Laws 1971, P. 3932. Numbered posts majority vote requirement for Mayor and Council.	Objection
HOGANSVILLE	Georgia Laws 1973, P. 3450. Majority vote requirement for Mayor and Council.	Objection
HOGANSVILLE Board of Education	Georgia Laws 1973, P. 3447. Numbered posts and majority vote requirement.	Objection
HOMERVILLE	Georgia Laws 1975, P. 3968. Numbered posts and majority vote requirement.	Not submitted
JONESBORO	Georgia Laws 1971, P. 2854. Majority vote requirement for Mayor and Council.	Objection
LAKELAND	Georgia Laws 1974, P. 2697. Numbered posts for Alderman; majority vote required for Mayor.	Not submitted
LOUISVILLE	Georgia Laws 1974, P. 2785. Numbered posts and majority vote requirement for Mayor and Council.	Objection
McRae	Georgia Laws 1968, P. 2729. Majority vote requirement for Mayor.	Not submitted
MANCHESTER	Georgia Laws 1965, P. 3065. Majority vote requirement.	Not submitted
MADISON	Georgia Laws 1974, P. 2182. Numbered posts for Alderman; majority vote required for Mayor and Alderman.	Objection
	Georgia Laws 1975, P. 2679. Numbered posts and majority vote requirement.	Objection
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CITY	ELECTION PROCEDURES	SECTION 3 STATUS
MONROE	Georgia Laws 1964, P. 2056. Addition of two Councilmen and changed from ward voting to at large voting within the city.	Not submitted
	Georgia Laws 1966, P. 2457. Majority vote requirement for Mayor and Alderman.	Not submitted
MOULTRIE	Georgia Laws 1965, P. 2744. Numbered posts and majority vote requirement.	Not submitted
NASHVILLE	Georgia Laws 1972, P. 2557. Designated posts and majority vote requirement.	No objection
NEWNAN	Georgia Laws 1972, P. 2385. Designated posts and majority vote requirement.	Objection
NORCROSS	Georgia Laws 1969, P. 3048. Majority vote requirement.	Not submitted
OCILLA	Georgia Laws 1966, P. 2893. Majority vote requirement.	Objection
PERRY	Georgia Laws 1964, P. 2805. Numbered posts and majority vote requirement.	Not submitted
	Georgia Laws 1973, P. 2849. Majority vote requirement.	Objection
QUITMAN	Georgia Laws 1970, P. 2655. Majority vote requirement.	Not submitted
ROME	A substantial number of annexations and elections law changes with the city of Rome have been objected to by the Department of Justice. At the time of this publication, the city of Rome stated its intentions to re-submit the election changes to the Department of Justice and, if the objections are withdrawn, to file suit to seek approval.	



CITY	ELECTIONS PROCEDURES	SECTION 5 STATUS
SAINT MARYS	Georgia Laws 1967, P. 2436. Designated posts and majority vote requirement.	Not submitted
SANDERSVILLE	Georgia Laws 1969, P.2467. (This a a referendum the results of which are not known). Creation of 5 numbered posts for Alderman.	Not submitted
	Georgia Laws 1971, P. 3922. Majority vote requirement for Mayor.	Not submitted
SYLVESTER	Georgia Laws 1965, P. 2065. Numbered posts for City Council.	Not submitted
	Georgia Laws 1973, P. 3352. Majority vote requirement.	Not submitted
THOMASVILLE SCHOOL BOARD	Georgia Laws 1968, P. 2359. Numbered posts and majority vote requirement.	Objection
	Georgia Laws 1973, P. 2573. Numbered posts and majority vote requirement.	Objection
THOMSON	Georgia Laws 1973, P. 2132. Designated posts.	Objection
VALDOSTA & VALDOSTA BOARD OF EDUCATION	Numerous minor changes in the Valdosta election procedure are under consideration by the Department of Justice at the time of this publication.	
WAYNESBORO	Georgia Laws 1971, P. 3328. Numbered posts and majority vote requirement.	Objection to Majority vote.  No objection to other changes



COUNTIES	ELECTION PROCEDURES	SECTION 5 STATUS
CALHOUN	Georgia Laws 1967, P. 3068. Changed from District to at-large elections.	Not submitted
CLAY	Georgia Laws 1967, P. 3489. Changed from District elections to County-wide elections.	Not submitted
CRISP	Georgia Laws 1964, P. 2253. Changed from District elections to County wide elections.	Not submitted
DOOLY	Georgia Laws 1967, P. 2586. Changed from District elections to County wide elections.	Not submitted
EARLY	Georgia Laws 1968, P. 2110. Changed from District elections to County wide elections.	Not submitted
GLYNN	Several changes have occurred in the Glynn county elections laws since 1964, and some of them have been objected to by the Department of Justice. The entire County Commission election system was changed by an act of the 1976 Legislature, and that act is presently pending before the Department of Justice.	
HENRY	Georgia Laws 1968, P. 3378. Changed from District elections to County-wide elections.	Not submitted
HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION	Georgia Laws 1966, P. 919. County wide elections and staggered terms.	Not submitted
JASPER	Georgia Laws 1968, P. 3629. Numbered posts and majority vote requirement.	Not submitted
McDUFFIE	Georgia Laws 1972, P. 2536. Changed from District elections to County-wide elections.	No objection



COUNTIES	ELECTION PROCEDURES	SECTION 3 STATUS
MERIWETHER	Georgia Laws 1970, P. 2842. Changed from District elections to at-large elections. ( An action has been filed against the Department of Justice challenging their failure to object to this change).	No objection
MILLER	Georgia Laws 1967, P. 2387. Changed from District elections to County-wide elections.  Georgia Laws 1968, P. 2529. Numbered posts.	Not submitted  Not submitted
NEWTON	Georgia Laws 1971, P. 3022. Changed from Districts to at-large elections.	Objection
PIKE BOARD OF EDUCATION	Georgia Laws 1972, P. 3003. Changed from District election to County-wide elections.	Not submitted
SUMTER BOARD OF EDUCATION	Georgia Laws 1973, P. 2127. Changed from District elections to County-wide elections.	Objection
TAYLOR BOARD OF EDUCATION	Georgia Laws 1975, P. 3486. Changed from District elections to County-wide elections. ( Note: this is a referendum the results of which were not available.)	Not submitted
TERRELL	Georgia Laws 1966, P. 2610. Designated posts and majority vote requirement.	Not submitted
TWIGGS	Georgia Laws 1971, P. 3564. Changed from District elections to at-large elections.	Objection
WALTON	Georgia Laws 1970, P. 2475. Changed from District election to County-wide elections.	Not submitted
WALTON BOARD OF EDUCATION	Georgia Laws 1969, P. 2054. Changed from District elections to County-wide elections	Not submitted
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COUNTIES	ELECTION PROCEDURES	SECTION 5 STATUS
WILKES	Georgia Laws 1972, P. 3337. Changed from District election to at-large elections.	Submission Pending
WILKES BOARD OF EDU- CATION	Georgia Laws 1972, P. 1518. Change from District election to County-wide election.	Submission Pending



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